



# Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

A food festival in Bridgend, (See page 6)

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Young dancers' marathon for Save the Children



ABOVE: Members of Bridgend Youth Dance took part in a national dance marathon in aid of Save the Children, when they danced for five hours in the Grand Pavilion. Some of the young dancers are pictured with their tutors, Lizzie Macmillan-Davies and Sian Rowlands.

PHOTOGRAPH by FRANK SHIPTON (07790 882925, or e-mail [frankshipton@mac.com](mailto:frankshipton@mac.com))

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## Nottage murder shocks community

A QUIET area of Porthcawl is in shock after the murder of a local man.

South Wales Police are releasing very few details, but a spokesman confirmed that officers are investigating the murder of 50-year-old Paul Trevelyan.

The spokesman said: "Officers were called to attend a house in the Nottage Meadows area shortly before 12.20am on Sunday, October 7.

"A 23-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder. He is currently in hospital and police officers are unable to interview him at this time."



ABOVE:  
The crime scene,  
picture by  
Keith E Morgan

## Lions' book clearance

IN anticipation of fresh book donations arriving for its 2013 spring book fair, Bridgend Lions Club is holding a huge one-day clearance sale of quality pre-owned books on Saturday, October 20, at the YMCA, Angel Street, Bridgend.

Eagerly awaited by book lovers from the borough and beyond, this annual clearance is an ideal opportunity to stock up on favourite authors, genres or interests because there will be thousands of thrillers, romances, biographies, non-fiction and children's books to browse.

Doors will open at 10am and there's no admission charge.

The club delights in the knowledge these book sales alone have produced more than £135,000 for local charitable and community causes. And that's on top of the club's many other fundraising projects.

Donations of books for next March's event will be gratefully received at the YMCA before, during and for months after the sale.

Arrangements to collect large quantities can be made by calling 0845 833 9582, or emailing: [information@bridgendlions.org.uk](mailto:information@bridgendlions.org.uk).

Information about the club's work and its contact details are on its website: [www.bridgendlions.org.uk](http://www.bridgendlions.org.uk).

DJ

'I find you to be a coward and a bully' - Recorder  
**Porthcawl man escapes jail after head-butting ex-girlfriend**

### CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A building worker who attacked a former girlfriend by twice headbutting her in the face, escaped a prison sentence at Cardiff Crown Court by the "skin of his teeth".

Gareth Lloyd (26) was branded a "coward and a bully" by Recorder Jeremy Jenkins.

Lloyd of Mackworth Road, Porthcawl, who has no previous convictions, was sentenced to 51 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for a year and directed to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Lloyd had been found guilty of causing 35-year-old Abigail Bryant actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor David Pinnell said the couple had had a relationship which came to an end.

On December 11, after he had been drinking, Miss Bryant agreed he could see her in her flat in Porthcawl.

When he went inside, he twice butted her, causing her to suffer a broken nose.

Between each of the attacks, said Mr Pinnell, Lloyd apologised.

He claimed that she had attacked him, and he reacted in self defence.

The court heard that Miss Bryant underwent an operation and in the future, further surgery will be required.

The court also heard that before the attack, he had sent her text messages involving insults.

Lloyd's counsel, Stuart McLees, said the attack was not premeditated and initially they had a pleasant conversation, which unfortunately turned nasty.

He said that Lloyd now has a new, positive relationship.

Continued on PAGE 11

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# 'Elections should not be about how much money the candidates can raise'

NOVEMBER 6 will see the culmination of one of the most expensive political operations in history.

The race for the White House, pitting two candidates and their fundraising

machines in a battle to win control of the US, pales all other election campaigns into financial insignificance.

It's estimated that the 2012 campaign will cost somewhere in the region of \$5.8billion (or £3.7billion).

Putting this into some kind of perspective, that is the equivalent of the GDP of Malawi.

In contrast, elections for Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales and England on November 15 have a public information budget of around £2m.

Every Presidential campaign is more expensive than the last. Since the election in 2000, the cost has leapt upwards by \$1bn a time. In 2008, the campaign cost around \$5bn.

Running for President has become, as one commentator described it, like running a decent medium-sized business for two years, while the campaign itself is equivalent to a decent sized industry.

While the office of President is the ultimate prize, the amounts of money involved are all the more staggering when you consider how many voters will determine the result.

Many US voters tend to stick with what they know and will not be persuaded to change their voting allegiance.

It is estimated that a mere 2-3per cent of voters are considered open to persuasion. Both parties apparently are convinced they

sider why so many non-EU nationals have come in over the last decade or more to fill jobs UK nationals could not do.

I do not remember unemployment ever reaching zero in that time. Is it because over the last decade the then Government lost control of our borders, or that they failed to educate or train the unemployed to be able to take these jobs? Or is it because the benefit system actively discourages them from applying?

As for MPs' expenses, the electorate know there is a gravy train out there and no matter if you are an MP, MSP, MEP, AM or a hanger-on, too many people are on it.

What about the British value of fairness? They still do not get it!

Graham Snowdon, Llantwit Major.

## 'Asylum questions to be answered'

THE letter from Madeleine Moon MP (The GEM, October 4) shows how disconnected some MPs are from the electorate.

She should be asking how many other safe EU countries the Bulgarian family travelled through before claiming asylum in Westminster.

Why they did not welcome secure temporary accommodation in a family detention centre where they would all be safe – and if, by some chance they lied about the asylum, claim they could easily be contacted by our overstretched immigration service and transported back to Bulgaria?

She should also con-

cern the GDP of Malawi.

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### WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for THE GEM.



have to spend vast amounts of money to get their loyal voters out. No Presidential candidate would deem it sensible to cut back on spending, for fear of losing.

Generating this campaign fund is not easy, which is why it seems as if Presidents have only two years in office to make any kind of impact, before they have to focus on the next Presidential race and fundraising.

The law that governs election spending in the US is very different from the UK and elsewhere. Here, there are limits on donations and what can be spent during the official campaign period.

In the US, fundraising is a merry-go-round of dinners, speaking events and meetings. Each party in the UK is permitted to have a small number of free party political broad-

casts, and cannot buy airtime.

This year's campaign has also been fuelled by Super PACs. These public action committees, sound like small groups of people who raise funds through cake sales and car boot sales.

In reality, they are independent political committees that support the candidates, who can receive donations from companies, unions or individuals.

They are entirely separate from the candidates and cannot contribute directly to the campaign. However, they can spend money at will.

There are concerns that this allows private, wealthy interests to have too much influence over the election; to the tune of \$3bn.

They also impact on the tone of the election. Independent monitoring of how this money is spent estimates that 70per cent is spent on what are known as attack ads; television adverts which seek to destroy the reputation of the opposing candidate. Negativity rules the airwaves.

The size and the scale of the campaign is staggering and raises a lot of questions about how fair and democratic an election can be if wealthy individuals can play such a role.

They would not be making those donations unless they believed they had at least some influence on the final result.

An election should never be about how much money one candidate or the other can raise.

It is difficult to know with any great certainty the degree to which the largest campaign budget wins. Hopefully, the personality and ability of the winning candidate still has some part to play in this!

Whether we like it or not, the outcome of the election will have far-reaching consequences for everyone,

particularly in the realm of international affairs. The new President will have difficult decisions to make; not least of which what to do about the deteriorating situation in Syria and the threat of Iran developing a nuclear weapon.

Like the UK, the US has two Houses – the House of Representatives sits in Congress and the 100 seat Senate, which is the equivalent of our House of Lords.

Those who serve in the 435-seat Congress are constantly fighting elections and fundraising as they face election every two years.

One Congressman told me he has to raise \$70m every two years to fight his seat, taking time away from actually doing the job of being a representative.

Control of Congress, the Senate, State Governorships and State Legislatures has a great impact on how effective a President can be in seeing policies enacted.

At present, the Democrats have a majority in the Senate but a minority in Congress, and hold a minority of governorships and state legislatures.

Election rules vary from state to state, and can have a direct impact on electoral outcomes. So many people need to vote in the Presidential election that polling booths are open over a number of days and weekends prior to election day.

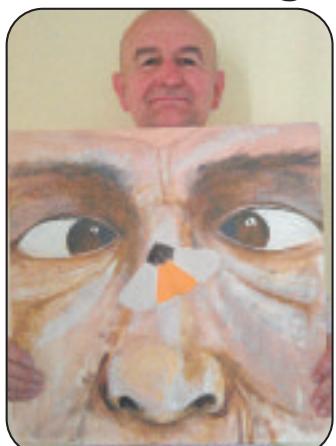
Voters may stand in a queue for several hours to complete their ballot paper. There are allegations of vote rigging.

Voters registered for one party in a state controlled by another may also find themselves removed from the electoral register because their name is similar to that of a convicted criminal, or they are suspected of being an illegal immigrant.

Compared with US elections, ours are simpler and considerably cheaper. Watch the US elections for the great show they are!

Another of my summer reads was 'Race of a Lifetime: How Obama won the White House', which describes the two-year race for the White House. It is an exhausting page turner.

Local artist's take on Dylan's famous village



John Mason with one of his paintings.

ANYONE interested in Saint David or Dylan Thomas might well find a visit to the Silures Gallery in South Road, Portcawl of interest.

Here local artist, John Mason, has interpreted Saint David's words "Cofiwch y pethau bychain" (Remember the little things of life) in his own unique way, to produce, in his own words a "quirky" and sometimes funny body of work.

Thirteen of his acrylic paintings are illustrations from Dylan Thomas' play for voices, *Under Milk Wood*, and his descriptions of Polly Garter, Lily Smalls and Mr Pugh among others, are almost guaranteed to

raise a smile.

John lives in Cefn Cribwr and has obviously been influenced by his home village, for many of Cefn's buildings (chapels, pubs, iron-works, signal box and post office) appear in several of his illustrations of 'Llareggub', Dylan's imaginary village.

The exhibition is further enhanced by Jane Malivisi's ceramic figures.

The exhibition, 'Dewi Meets Dylan' may be viewed at Silures Gallery (CF36 3DG) every weekend until the end of October, 11am until 4.30 pm.

## Care home coffee

BYRNE CELYN care home in Maesteg joined in with Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning with friends, relatives and neighbours.

They held a competition for best cake and also a raffle, offering some wonderful prizes in return for the kind donations.

The home managed to raise a brilliant £77.17 to be donated to the cause.

Manager Maria Cahalane said: "The coffee morning went so well."

"Everyone had a great time joining in the competitions and chatting over a drink and cake."

"It was lovely to see everyone getting involved to help this amazing charity."

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL OCTOBER 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Portcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
11 Thur	03.33	7.5	15.49	7.9
12 Fri	04.31	8.2	16.45	8.7
13 Sat	05.19	8.8	17.34	9.3
14 Sun	06.02	9.5	18.21	9.9
15 Mon	06.45	10.0	19.03	10.3
16 Tues	07.27	10.4	19.48	10.6
17 Wed	08.11	10.5	20.31	10.5
18 Thur	08.53	10.4	21.16	10.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

## Pantomime auditions



ABOVE: Dancers are wanted for a new pantomime in Port Talbot.

HAVE you ever wanted to dance in Pantomime? Performing Arts Cymru are looking to extend its troupe of dancers for a professional pantomime in Port Talbot. Auditions will take place on October 21 at

Mountpleasant, Brynirion, Bridgend, CF31 4EF: juniors (seven-10 years) at 1pm; seniors (11-14) at 2pm. Audition administration fee is £3. Call 01656 750008 for more information.

# Mother and daughter's charity walk with their 'Band of Sisters'

BY the time GEM readers open this newspaper, Alison Elson and her daughter, Becky Collett, will be nearing the end of a challenging charity walk in temperatures close to 100 degrees Fahrenheit!

The two women are members of the 'Band of Sisters' a group allied to the Help for Heroes charity, and they are walking 100km in Jordan, finishing at the ancient city of Petra tomorrow (October 12).

Most of the Band of Sisters, and there are about 40 in the group, have suffered a personal tragedy during recent conflicts and Alison, from Pencoed, and Becky, from Llangeinor, are no exception.

It was in July 2009 that they received the news that Alison's stepson, Lance Corporal Dane Elson, had died of his wounds in Afghanistan, while serving with the Welsh Guards.

Alison told The GEM: "We have been told to expect difficult terrain and very high

## LOCAL FIRMS' HIGH SCORE ON HYGIENE

HYGIENE standards in Bridgend county borough food businesses have risen since a scoring system was introduced, BCBC report.

Since the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (Fhrs) began two years ago, environmental health officers have been rating 1,022 food businesses currently rated under the scheme at the moment.

A spokeswoman stated that currently just over 77 per cent of borough businesses have the higher rating of 3, 4 or 5, and there has been a decline in those businesses that have been given a low rating of 0, 1 or 2, from 36 per cent last year to 23 per cent now.

Businesses were assessed on how hygienically the food is handled, the condition and the structure of the buildings, including cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation, equipment and other facilities and how the business manages and records what it does to make sure food is safe.

From the inspection findings the business will be given a rating

by PHILIP IRWIN

temperatures during the day, up to 40 degrees Celsius.

The aim is to cover the 100km over six days, and we have been training hard in recent months, walking up hills around Pencoed and the Garw Valley."

Alison explained: "The Band of Sisters is a support group for women who have been affected, and it also pays for holiday cottages, so that wounded soldiers and families can take a short holiday."

Every family that loses a son or daughter while on active service has their own way of dealing with the tragedy, and their own stories.

Alison, her husband Stuart, and Becky can remember the phone call from Dane just two weeks before he died.

Alison said: "He was really upset, because a good friend, Dale Leach, he had been badly injured. It didn't look as if he would make it."

In fact Dale, from Barry, did survive but two weeks later, Dane was badly injured in Iraq in August 2007.

Alison said: "It has been overwhelming. We did a supermarket collection over a weekend at Tesco's in Llantrisant, and raised £1,600 there alone."

"Morrison's and Asda have been helpful too, and so have the Royal British Legion in Pencoed.

"Marion and Gwyn Claridge, of the Legion, run a quiz once a month and have donated to us."

Anyone reading The GEM this week can be pretty sure that there are two very tired women in Jordan, trying to make it all the way to the finish!

Donations can still be made to the following website: [www.bmcharity.com/beckycollett](http://www.bmcharity.com/beckycollett)

action, and he did not make it.

The tragedies have brought them together and recently, Becky and Dale went on a short break to stay in a holiday cottage in France – courtesy of the Band of Sisters.

Working with the support group has helped Alison and Becky deal with the aftermath and, to be honest, there are regular reminders of how recent conflicts have left local families bereft and scarred.

Alison said: "When we were on a training walk in the Garw, we headed up a steep path to a hill overlooking the valley, and came by chance on a small memorial for Private Craig Barber, who died in Iraq in August 2007.

"It was touching, and many people had left flowers and mementos there. We left our wrist bands there."

Alison and Becky have had great support locally for their charity walk, and have already raised £6,000.

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ABOVE: Becky Collett (left) and Alison Elson are now in Jordan on a charity trek in 100 degree temperatures.

Photograph by MANDY THOMAS ([www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk](http://www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk))

## Credit Union's £5,656 grant

AN organisation supporting Maesteg people on low incomes is among a dozen groups awarded grants to continue making life better for people in Wales's former mining communities.

Llynfi Valley Credit Union has received £5,656 from the Coalfields Community Grants Programme, which is distributed by The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) Wales to support voluntary organisations having a positive impact on the lives of local residents.

"The grants are given to groups whose actions are making an impact at grass roots level and helping people to connect with their community," said CRT Wales operations manager Siân Sykes.

## Samaritans' outreach

BRIDGEND Samaritans are to hold a weekly 'outreach' meeting in Maesteg.

Volunteers will be available to meet people in Hartshorn House every other Wednesday from October 24, between 10am to 1pm. A spokeswoman

said: "You need to make an appointment to enter Hartshorn House."

Anyone wishing to talk to a Samaritan there should first contact the Bridgend office on 01656 662333 (open from 11am - 9pm) a day or two before the outreach meeting.

## Auction raises £4,000 for Heronsbridge school

A CHARITY auction at The Pelican pub in Ogmore-by-Sea was the result of a team-building exercise by the Sports Extremity and Trauma team from Biomet.

Three teams went around the country obtaining donations to auction in aid of Heronsbridge school.

Lots included hotel and spa breaks, golf days, racing track experiences, a week at a villa in The Canaries, signed sporting memorabilia (Gareth Edwards, Lewis Hamilton, Fernando Torres, Ospreys, St Helens Rugby League and double Olympic gold medallist, Geraint Thomas).

The event was attended by Biomet

staff, Heronsbridge School staff, Wales and Ospreys star Jonathon Thomas and the local community and nearly £4,000 was raised.

Heronsbridge is a school for pupils with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties.

"We are absolutely delighted to accept this generous donation and would like to thank Biomet for their generosity."

"The money raised will go a long way towards the continual improvement of our facilities here at Heronsbridge, therefore ensuring that our pupils' school experience is the very best that we can offer," said Jeremy Evans, deputy headteacher. See page 5 for photographs.

## CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Burglar held after his flip flops fell off

A BURGLAR who raided the home of a civil engineer and his family in Brackla left behind "a trail of devastation" Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Alan Davies (35) of Oaktree Court, Brackla, was jailed for a total of 20 months. He admitted a charge of burglary and was also in breach of a suspended sentence for drugs offences.

Judge Huw Davies told him: "There have been lasting consequences for the family."

"It's not what burglars take, it's what burglars leave behind. You left a trail of devastation."

Prosecutor David Thomas said that Mr David Kingston and his family had lived in the house in Eagle View for 23 years.

Earlier this year, he had visited relations in Sussex and neighbours would go to the house to feed the cat.

On one occasion, noises were heard in the house, and it was noticed that a conservatory door was smashed.

Soon after, neighbours spotted Davies climbing over a fence at the house.

He was chased but he was wearing flip flops, which came off, allowing his pursuers to catch him.

The court heard that Davies had ransacked the dwelling and took 11 items, including jewellery.

The family now felt angry and anxious at what had occurred.

When arrested, Davies gave a full and frank account to the police and said he had got in by smashing the window with a large stone.

His intention, he said, had been to sell the property and buy heroin. That morning, he added, he had taken over 100 Valium tablets and had drug debts of £3,000.

His counsel, Nicholas Gareth Jones said: "He burgled an unoccupied house during the day. It was unsophisticated.

"He has assisted the police in every way possible. He cannot be sure why he committed the offence, and he is apologetic."

## Porthcawl man jailed for attack with a bottle

A BOTTLE shattered on impact when it was thrown at a man in Porthcawl, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Chilcott later told the police: "I did it. I got him back, I sorted him."

When arrested, he accepted he had the bottle but could remember little of the incident.

He claimed Mr Davies kicked him, and he reacted in panic and temper.

The victim, Kenny Davies, had been scarred for life, said Judge Daniel Williams.

Paul Chilcott (22), unemployed of Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl, was jailed for a year.

He had been found guilty by Vale Magistrates of a charge of wounding and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Said the judge: "You had been drinking extremely heavily and what you did was outrageous."

He said he had thrown a bottle with full force from a distance of 12 feet.

Mr Davies had been told that he would be scarred permanently, and he now felt paranoid.

Prosecutor David Thomas said the two men were both out in John Street, Porthcawl, and met by chance.

Chilcott was carrying a bottle and at one stage shouted: "Come on, let's have you."

Shortly after, Chilcott was involved in play-fighting with another man.

Mr Davies jogged towards Chilcott and appeared to kick him. At that point, Chilcott threw the bottle at him. It

struck him on the forehead and smashed on impact.

Chilcott later told the police: "I did it. I got him back, I sorted him."

When arrested, he accepted he had the bottle but could remember little of the incident.

He claimed Mr Davies kicked him, and he reacted in panic and temper.

The wound, the court heard, required seven stitches. Chilcott's solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "He accepts there were aggressive features."

"He has since expressed remorse and shame, and was physically sick when he realised what he had done."

"Sadly, he had drunk an obscene amount of alcohol. He lives with his mother and helps to care for her."

## PADDLE FOR LIFE

IT'S all hands on deck for the staff and locals at the Jolly Sailor Inn in Porthcawl as they 'Paddle For Life' in aid of Save the Children on Saturday, October 13 on Newton beach, at 1pm.

It promises to be a fun day for all the family, with activities including a raft race, surfing, kayaking and beach games, while raising money and making a difference to children's lives here in Wales and worldwide.

After the raft race, prizes will be presented on Newton village green and from 5pm there will be a bouncy castle for the children, a barbecue, and live music by artists Mills & Boone will follow through the evening at the Jolly Sailor.

For further information or to register, visit [www.paddle4life.com](http://www.paddle4life.com) or call 01656 783310.

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ABOVE: Young readers and their parents give the thumbs-up to the Summer Reading Challenge.

## The Porthcawl Library celebrates young readers



ABOVE: Young readers and special guests after the presentation of prizes.  
Photos courtesy of NATASHA HIRST.

PORTHCAWL Library recently recognised their young readers with a special presentation – to mark their successful completion of the UK-wide National Summer Reading Challenge.

A total of 15 pupils from schools in Porthcawl were presented with special prizes donated by local businesses. The Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Marlene Thomas, Porthcawl Town Council Mayor, Coun Alana Davies and Carwyn Jones AM were among the guests at the special event.

Children taking part had to visit their library four times over the summer and read six or more books to complete the challenge.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "More than 1,500 children from across Bridgend county borough's schools aged from four to 11 have been receiving medals and certificates during special school assemblies for completing the challenge. I think they all deserve a round of applause for their achievement."

Carwyn Jones, First Minister of Wales, added: "Reading is such an enjoyable and important skill and I applaud the efforts of children who persevere with reading."

## 'Love your leftovers!' – say Brackla Primary pupils



ABOVE: Brackla Primary School pupils joined Mayor Marlene Thomas – to teach Bridgend shoppers how to make the most out of the food they buy.

**SHOPPERS** in Bridgend town centre got a lesson in leftovers with a little help from Brackla Primary School pupils and Mayor Marlene Thomas.

The school's eco committee joined Mayor Thomas for a cook-off in Bridgend town centre as part of Waste Awareness Wales' 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

The event, hosted by BCBC, also featured demonstrations from professional chefs and free samples as a way of showing shoppers how the food they throw away can often still be used to cook delicious meals and save money.

Brackla pupils helped the Mayor to make

flatbreads from leftovers.

Mayor Thomas said: "I think shoppers were amazed at the wonderful, nutritious meals that can be made with leftovers, including the flatbreads the children created, which were delicious."

"We want to help residents across Bridgend county borough to learn about the many simple things they can do at home to make the most of the food they have bought in order to save money and waste less."

For further advice, visit: [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for recipe ideas and top tips in Welsh and English.

REALITY TV STAR TELLS OF LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

## Former Bridgend bricklayer looking to conquer the modelling world

WHETHER you love it or loathe it, MTV's new reality TV hit 'The Valleys' has put this part of the world at the forefront of everyone's minds – and one of the show's main stars is Bridgend's own Darren Chidgey.

Moving nine young hopefuls from their homes in Cardiff, TV cameras follow their every move as they chase their modelling dreams in the day and lead a nocturnal existence many youngsters dream of.

'Chidgey' (25), as he is known by all, was born in Cefn Glas, Bridgend, but later moved to Pen-y-Fai, attending Bryntrion Comprehensive School. He played a lot of rugby and swam to a high standard, training 'nine or ten times a week'.

Looking back on growing up in the borough, it is his friends and family that stand out. He told The GEM: "I had my friends and family around me. My old man hasn't done a bad job with me and he is somebody I really look up to. I still have mates with a house in Bridgend so I like to kick back there."

But after working as a bricklayer, which "has served me well till now", it was a desire for more which led him to apply for the show.

He continued: "The whole concept of chasing my dream attracted me. I've always wanted

Interview by  
Leigh Gruffydd  
Sanders

to be a model and this gave me the confidence to go forward.

"I haven't always been this confident and this is opening doors for me. I'm in a much better position than I was 12 months ago."

"I've learnt a lot about myself. Don't judge a book by its cover!"

Some people would be fazed by living 24/7 in front of the TV cameras, including while laying in bed. But Chidgey felt that after the initial shock you "just get on with it", and is hoping TV audiences will prompt another series being commissioned by the TV giants MTV.

"I really enjoyed the modelling, and I made some good relationships. I would like to see us do more series."

"Everyone goes in with first impressions and I was keen to be myself all the way through. If you're not, it catches up with you."

Since the show hit our screens, life has become hectic for the stars. They have just spent a week in Australia promoting it, bumping in to Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt in a restaurant and having a few photos.

But it was another incident that really opened Chidgey's eyes to their instant fame.

"Last weekend was an eye opener. I did my first PA event and girls were crying in the audience, or when I posed



Darren Chidgey (above) is making a name for himself in MTV's new reality TV show The Valleys (below).

for photos. Two girls said they had driven for hours to be there, I couldn't believe it."

"When I go out people stop and say hello and ask for photos. I'm really glad people across the board are enjoying it."

"All I've got to say on some of the negative comments is that you're not out to please everybody, if you don't like it you don't have to watch it."

So, what next for the budding model?

"I dream of doing a Calvin Klein shoot, everyone can dream. Watch this space for the future, there's a lot in the pipeline."

"I like the Valleys, it's homely, but it's just time for me to move on."

## No surprises as 40th season picks up pace

THE Bridgend and District Quiz League's 40th season began in earnest on Monday, September 1 and there were no surprises results.

The champions, Llangwydd Arms, won away to Tyrsia Royals, but had to work hard for their victory before emerging victorious by 51 points to 46.

Tyrsia Nomads also scored 51 but it was a somewhat hollow victory as their opponents, Pheasant Poachers were only able to field two players, which cost them dearly and they did well to reach a total of 21.

Tondu Railway Club were one player short

but pulled out all the stops to beat Crown Inn's 'A' team by 43 to 37 and Oldcastle 'A'

came away from the Six Bells, Coity winners by 43 points to 30.

In Division Two Greenmeadow, Llangenior had the evening's top score when they won 54-43 against Laleston Inn 'B'.

Three-man Cabo Roche were convincing winners at Laleston Inn 'A' by 51 points to 43 and Crown Inn 'B' had a very good win, 49-41, versus Coychurch Wanderers.

Last season's bottom team Pyle RFC's acquisition of a former Division 1 player seems to be bearing fruit as they had a praiseworthy

win at Oldcastle 'B' by 42 to 40.

Here are your four-for-thought:

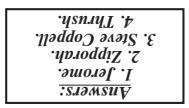
1. Which saint translated the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate?

2. In the Old Testament, who was the wife of Moses?

3. Which former England soccer international was manager of Manchester City for just 23 days in 1996?

4. The Blackbird is a member of which bird family?

A Rudge  
(for Quiz League)



# PELICAN PUB AUCTION RAISES A TOTAL OF £4,000 FOR HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL

**PHOTOGRAPHS**  
by RANDELL JOHN  
www.randelljohnphotography.com  
01656 662324

A CHARITY auction at the Pelican Pub in Ogmore-by-Sea recently raised £4,000 for Heronsbridge School, thanks to the hard work of the Sports Extremity and Trauma team from Biomet who travelled Wales auctioning off prizes.

Huronsbridge School caters for children with severe learning disabilities.

The money raised will now be used to improve the school's facilities in order to continue catering for the pupils' needs.

*For the full story, see article on page 3. More information below, right.*



THESE photographs by GEM photographer Randell John show some of the highlights of the evening.

Three teams travelled the country obtaining donations from various sources including spa days, signed sports memorabilia, golf days etc.

These were then auctioned off.



## Rugby ref Nigel swaps his whistle for a library card

INTERNATIONAL rugby referee and television personality Nigel Owens joined forces with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to encourage more people to take a fresh look at their local library this autumn.

Yesterday (October 10) Nigel marked World Mental Health Day by launching the 'Get Reading, Get Better, Get Libraries' campaign at Pyle Life Centre at 2pm.

Designed to promote the benefits that using a library can have on health and wellbeing, the campaign will encourage people to borrow mood-boosting books, including large print and audio formats, and to take part in the various group activities that are available at local libraries.

Nigel said: "Taking time out to relax is very important for your health and wellbeing. Reading is a great way to do this, and joining in with group activities at the library can help you share experiences and have some fun."

Libraries in Bridgend county borough and across Wales will host events in support of the campaign, including

author visits, baby bounce and rhyme sessions, reading groups, yoga sessions, zumba classes and drop-in health checks.

The campaign will also highlight the 'Book Prescription Wales' scheme, which enables GPs and other health professionals to prescribe self-help books for people with mild to moderate mental health issues, and help them get information to better manage their conditions.

More than 30 titles have been carefully selected and are available to borrow free of charge at every local library across Wales.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Research has shown that the Book Prescription Wales scheme has been a great success for helping those suffering from mild to moderate mental health issues, so it is great that libraries throughout Bridgend county borough will be involved with this campaign."

To find out more, call into your local library or visit: [www.library-wales.org](http://www.library-wales.org).

# The 'Feastival' brings the foodies to Bridgend town centre's streets

Photographs by  
**RANDELL JOHN**  
[www.randelljohnphotography.com](http://www.randelljohnphotography.com)  
01656 662324

**BRIDGEND'S** alternative food festival – the 'Feastival' – succeeded in attracting visitors to the town centre recently.

They had the chance to try a wide range of food from street traders, some cooking hot food in front of salivating customers, and others offering quality produce they had made earlier!



Merlin Maddock of Blaengarw played a quirky melody on an unusual instrument.



ABOVE: Sue Taylor with guide dog Leo. (SEE STORY ON PAGE 13).



ABOVE: Shoppers checking out the stall-holders' goods.

LEFT: A spicy tortilla, straight from the pan!

BELOW:  
There was live music on the streets as well.



## TORY AM's CALL 'Don't downgrade Princess of Wales Hospital!'

**REGIONAL AM**  
**SUZY DAVIES** is backing a petition on Facebook, set up by a Broadlands resident to fight proposed cuts in services at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Ian Spiller was so incensed when he read about the possible downgrading of services at the hospital, that he decided to take action.

He said: "I saw that one of the changes could be the removal of an obstetric and maternity unit, which would be replaced with a midwife-led one.

"Also, the neo-natal unit and the children's ward would close, to be replaced by a paediatric assessment unit, but any children needing admission would then have to be taken elsewhere – possibly to Cardiff or Swansea.

"My eldest daughter was born with three small holes in her heart, although it was a completely normal pregnancy. Thankfully, the hospital had a paediatric and neo-natal unit on site, so we did not have to go through the trauma and stress of seeing her whisked miles away.

"Transferring sick babies between hospitals is playing with people's lives. The same is true if they downgrade A&E into a minor injuries unit. Every second counts when people are seriously ill.

"This is simply not good enough for a growing town like Bridgend. The population is increasing thanks to the development of places like Brackla, Broadlands and now Parc Derwen.

"To cut services here is lunacy. We should be increasing them to match the growing population."

Mr Spiller has had 700 "likes" on his Facebook page in 24 hours, and he applied to have a petition put on the Welsh Government website.

"I would urge everyone who feels strongly to sign the petition. That's the only way we can put pressure on the politicians in Cardiff who will be making these decisions – especially Health Minister Lesley Griffiths and Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones. We must show them how strongly people feel about retaining these services."

**SUZY DAVIES** commented: "Research has been done that shows for every mile of distance patients have to travel to get treatment, their risk of death or permanent damage increases significantly.

"Although no decision has been taken about the future of the Princess of Wales, unless it is designated a regional centre it will lose its key emergency, paediatric and obstetric services and there is no doubt that lives will be put at risk.

"If Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr were to be designated as the regional centre instead of PoW, and that is one of the options being considered, would patients suffering a heart attack be taken there? "If so, they could be dead in the back of the ambulance before they even arrived.

"There have been rumours about the Princess of Wales hospital for months and I have challenged the health board about its future, but was told that nothing had been decided.

"Well, let's help them make up their minds by showing them that the people of Bridgend are not prepared to see their main hospital downgraded in this way."

## IN BRIEF

### **Health day**

A **HEALTH** awareness day takes place at The Co-operative Pharmacy's mobile pod today between 9am-6pm at Pyle Industrial Estate.

### **Bridgend gig**

**GLASOW**-based alt.blues musician Dave Arcari comes 'home' to play some UK dates through October, including Hobo's, Bridgend, on Friday, October 19.

"Although I play regularly in south Wales – I've been at Abertillery Blues Festival and Borough Blues Club over the last year – I've never played a show in Bridgend!" says Arcari.

"I'm particularly looking forward to the Hobo's gig as my partner and tour manager, Margaret, was born in Bridgend and we usually stay in the town with relatives when we visit south Wales."

# Recreation centre jobs fair welcomes local job seekers



ABOVE left to right): Coun Phil White, Sian Thomas, Emma Pagan, Rhian Bumford, Alys Jones, Sophie Danter (BCBC HR department) and job seeker Jeff Lloyd from Ogmore Vale.

MORE than 1,000 visitors attended a jobs fair organised by Jobcentre Plus and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) at Bridgend Recreation Centre recently.

Job seekers had the opportunity to discuss various employment opportunities with 37 exhibitors, including large organisations such as the council, Avon, Renishaw, Ensinger, HSBC (Swansea), SAS International and Abacus (Swansea warehouse).

There was also a host of local companies in the care, clerical, construction, civil engineering, as well as the voluntary sectors.

Ian Hargreaves, of Jobcentre Plus and organiser of the event, said: "We all know the jobs market is competitive at the moment, so it's important for people to remain proactive and do what they can to make themselves known to employers.

"Job fairs like this are a great opportunity for local people to do just that, giving them the chance to speak to a number of employers face-to-face under the

one roof."

Officers from the council's HR department were on hand to discuss the different jobs on offer and the benefits of working for the authority, along with the Adult Community Learning department, who received a considerable amount of interest in the courses they have to offer.

Exhibitors were also invited to participate in the 2013 14-19 careers event which will take place on March 13-14 2013 at the Pencoed campus of Bridgend College.

# Porthcawl theatre group's Frank play!



ABOVE: Cast members Jackie Vaughan, Chris Richards, Adrian Thomas, Chris Johnson, Clare Skalitsky-Newman, Sharon James, Allison Gough and Paul Morgan.

FROM October 11-13 in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, Phoenix Theatre.com will perform Frank Vickery's comedy *Pulling The Wool*.

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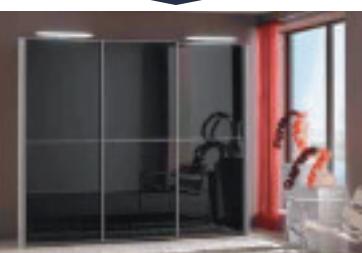
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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Treorchy Eisteddfod**  
I HAVE the pleasurable task of writing up this recent competition for the young musicians and singers of the year at The Parc and Dare theatre, Treorchy.

This was the first eisteddfod I had ever attended. There were a number of youngsters from Bridgend county borough competing and entertainment while the adjudication took place, was provided by three choirs – Bridgend male Choir under musical director Rhianon Williams-Hale and accompanist Stephanie Bailey, Noteworthy mixed choir (musical director Ryan Wood and accompanist Rhianon Williams-Hale); and Cör Ysgol Gyfun Cymer (Rhondda).

The first group on stage were confident young singers in the junior section aged 8-12; led by eight-year-old Carys Lewis from Treherbert, who sang 'Tomorrow' from the show *Annie*: what a performer.

Second up was Katie Leigh-Jones (11) from Trealaw with the difficult 'Christopher Robin' is saying his prayers'. Mia Edwards (10) from Ton Pentre sang 'The Rainbow' from the *Muppets*; Holly Davies (12) from Abercynon with the beautiful 'I

dreamed a dream' from *Les Misérables*; and Ffion Jones (12) from Treorchy sang 'Good morning Baltimore' from the show *Hairspray*.

Then came the intermediate section ages 13-17. Caitlin Lavanga (15) from Porth sang the Gershwin song 'Summertime'; Georgia Williams (15) from Treherbert 'In his eyes' from *Jekyll and Hyde*. Jodi Bird (14) from Penarth sang the hit song 'Don't cry for me Argentina' from the show *Evita*; Gabrielle Davies (15) from Treherbert with 'Maybe I like it this way'; and the only boy competitor Callum Howells (13) from Tonypandy sang 'Get me what I need' from '13' the musical.

The senior section ages 18-23 was led by Helen Victoria Davies (23) from Porthcawl's Mozart's 'Una Donna A Quindici Anni'; Sarah Gifford (21) from Cardiff (Handel's 'Ch'io Mai Vi Possa') and Rachel Stephens (19) from Treherbert, with a totally different style from the show *Wicked* 'The wizard and I'.

Then it was the duets, with first on stage 10-year-old Sophie and Cara Everett from Penyrefnlyn with a powerful version of Calon Lan; then Eloise Macey and Megan Tewkesbury members of Ysgol Gyfun Y Cymer school choir

with 'Avignon' and Morgan Westcott (14) from Treorchy and Georgia Williams (15) from Treherbert sang an interesting version of 'The Prayer'.

Before the interval, the youngsters of Cör Ysgol Gyfun Y Cymer came on stage and sang Robat Arwyn's 'Anfonaf Angel' finishing with Mozart's from Ave Verum 'Henfylch Gorff Dymwad.'

The musicians started the second half. In the junior section (ages 8-12) Manon Fflur William (12) from Barry on the violin played 'Musette' third movement, Sonata in G Jean Marie Leclair. Pianist Aneirin Carpenter-Richards (11) played Arthur Benjamin's Fantasies 'Soldiers in the distance', and Carys Lewis played (on the tenor horn) from Jesus Christ Superstar, 'I don't know how to love him.' Carys had also competed in the junior singers section.

Rhianna Harris (10) from Aberdare (piano) played Caroline Crawford's 'Arpeggio Waltz'; from Maesteg, Francesca May Rees (11, cello) played the Hungarian Folksong and pianist Manon Fflur William returned to play Pamela Wedgewood's 'Say you will'.

In the intermediate category ages 13-17, Charlotte Lewis (13) from Ynyswen played

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: [tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk)



(on the cornet) E Wilson's arrangement of Dvorak's 'Rusalka's song to the moon.' Kate Israel (15) from Aberdare (piano) played Madeline Dring's 'Blu Air' and another young lady from Maesteg, Anabelle Georgina Rees (15) (flute) played John Rutter's Aria.

Pianist Charlotte White (15) from Ferndale, Debussy's 'Deux Arabesques. Harvey David Rees (14), Maesteg, '2nd movement Haydn's trumpet concerto, and Lewis Thomas Rees (16) from Treorchy (bass tuba) played S Sykes' arrangement of R Drigo's 'Serenade.'

Then came the final section in the musicians category at senior level ages 18-23. Stuart Street (23) from Ferndale (piano) I Giorni's 'Ludovico' and completing the completion was Ben Stratford (18) from Gloucester (Philip Sparke's 'Scaromouche').

The adjudicators Jeffrey Howard, Camilla Roberts, Emily Bull and Ryan Wood,

chose Rhianna Harris in the junior song and musician section; Kate Israel in the intermediate section and Ben Stratford in the senior section; Eloise Macey and Megan Tewkesbury in the duet category. Rachel Stephens nominated for the Richard Williams trophy.

The compère Selwyn Jones is to be congratulated for the way he ensured everything proceeded smoothly on the stage and full credit to the organiser Rhianon Williams-Hale.

She also joined Bridgend male choir as their conductor for four songs.

**90th birthday**  
MANY congratulations to Laura Lodge, who should be having three days of extended 90th birthday celebrations on Sunday, October 14. Happy Birthday, Laura and I hope you have many more happy and healthy years.

**Church benefits**

TO help raise parish funds, there will be a concert at St David's

Church, Wyndham tonight, Thursday, October 11, at 7pm. The entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Ogmore Valley male voice choir.

Mr Reed's wife was screaming.

Morgan later told the police he could not remember what happened after passing junction 35.

He said he had driven from Carmarthen to Acton and then made the return journey. He said there were no defects on his vehicle, and road conditions had been good.

Mobile phones were examined and it was revealed that Morgan had used his to send and receive about 140 messages.

Mr Evans said there had obviously been a lack of concentration, and Morgan must have been distracted and/or tired.

Mr Cox's family, added Mr Evans, had been "devastated".

Tom Crowther, Morgan's counsel, said his client could not say what happened, though he must have been aware of the risks of fatigue.

It was being driven by Morgan, at approximately 55 mph, and went straight into the back of the recovery truck, pushing it along the hard shoulder into the back of the camper van.

Mr Evans said: "The brakes were not applied until the tanker was 0.15 seconds from the crash."

The truck and lorry travelled in an arc across three lanes of the M4 into the central barrier.

Mr Cox was trapped under the recovery truck and died instantly of multiple injuries.

"He has lost his career and is uninsurable for ever."

Morgan was ordered to take the extended driving test.

To help raise funds to try and replace these items, the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir conducted by its musical director Alun Hodges and accompanist Suzanne Hodges organised a concert.

There was a capacity audience and the choir were pleased that the two Bridgend young singer of the year finalists, Sebastian Waters and Lauren Coates agreed to sing solo parts to assist the choir.

The choir sang a selection of songs from their vast repertoire. Sebastian, who is also a member of 'Only Boys Aloud' along with being a member of the Gleemen, sang a number of his favourite songs, among which was 'Cartref' and 'Anthem' from *Chess*, with Lauren choosing a number of melodies from her favourite show 'Les Misérables'.

The choir each year holds a collection outside Tesco's, the proceeds from which it donates to a charity and Mr John Wines, the secretary, presented a cheque for £300 to the church vicar.

Colin, landlord of the Garth Inn, presented another cheque to the vicar for £50.

Anthony Bwye, compère for the evening and deputy musical director to the choir, told the audience that if anyone knew of a worthwhile cause that required funding, the choir would always be willing

to assist.

### Poppy appeal

ON Saturday, October 27, at 7.30pm in the Garw Leisure Centre the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band will be providing music for a number of guest choirs, and also entertaining the audience.

Tickets can be obtained at Pontycymer Post Office or by telephoning 01656 870304; adults £5, children £2.50, all proceeds go to the Royal British Legion.

### Indoor Bowling

FOR youngsters who would like to try their hand at this sport, there are coaching sessions for both seniors and juniors available on Saturday mornings in Bridgend

Recreation Centre at a cost of £3 for non-members and £2 for members.

For more information, ask in the centre or telephone 0300 012 1223.

### Carers' centre

THE centre is located in 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ, (telephone 01656 658479).

To assist carers juggling work and caring responsibilities, the centre will be opening on Saturday, October 13, between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

On October 18, the outreach group, along with a representative of the Citizens Advice Bureau, will be at Maesteg council offices between 10am and 1pm.

Between 1pm and 2pm, there will be a 'Body Blitz' session with Darija.

## Porthcawl Poppy Appeal concert

THIS YEAR'S PORTHCAWL Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Concert is on Saturday, October 13, at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, at 7pm.

The Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir will be performing, supported by vocal ensemble Sounds Familiar.

Tickets are obtainable on the door or from Raymond Street (01656 771214) or John Berry (01656 772002).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

lending their support.

There are also various lots that money cannot normally buy. Tickets cost £5 (to include nibbles and a reception drink) can be obtained from the school and Ewenny Potters.

Proceeds will go towards redevelopment of the school hall, which is proving to be too small now that the school is so popular.

It is hoped that an enlarged school hall will benefit the whole community and become a useful venue for the village.

So please come along and enjoy a fun evening while supporting the school! All are welcome to what promises to be a wonderful evening.

## Spate of car thefts prompts police warning

**POLICE** are reminding local motorists to ensure their vehicles are securely locked and valuables removed when left unattended.

The warning follows a number of thefts from parked cars across the borough in recent weeks.

Sunglasses, cash, clothing and CDs are just some of the items that have been stolen from a number of vehicles, some of which had been left insecure, said Bridgend Local Policing Inspector Paul Tinkler.

"All too often motorists have left personal belongings visible in their cars when they have left them parked and unattended.

"You should always take any valuables with you and make sure all doors and windows are made secure before leaving your vehicle.

"If you see anyone behaving in a manner that strikes you at all unusual please do not hesitate to report it to the police immediately. It is by working together that we can continue to keep Bridgend safe."

## WHATS' ON - in brief

### MAESTEG FIREWORK DISPLAY

THE Rotary Club of Maesteg will again organise a firework display at Maesteg Rugby Club on November 5.

All proceeds to charities. Entrance fee same as last year, £6 per person, or a family ticket of two adults and two children, £15. Display to commence at 7.30pm.

### CHARITY COFFEE

A SAVE the Children coffee morning will take place on Friday, November 9, at 10.30am in Trinity Church, Porthcawl. Craft, cakes, Christmas cards, gifts.

## Mechanic died in 'scene of carnage' on the M4

A SECTION of the M4 near Bridgend was a "scene of carnage" when an articulated milk tanker careered along the hard shoulder, killing a recovery technician from Penarth who was helping a motorist to change his wheel.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Mr Richard Cox died instantly after being trapped under the recovery truck.

David Morgan, 36, of Pembrey, near Llanelli, was jailed for three years and disqualified from driving for five years, after he pleaded guilty to causing the death of Mr Cox by dangerous driving.

Said Judge Eleri Rees: "Any vehicle driven badly is a lethal one, all the more so if it is a large articulated tanker."

She said he had been on a long journey from London, had gone to bed late, been drinking, and was not at his best.

Prosecutor Huw Evans said that at 6.20pm on April 25 last year, David Reed was driving his camper van west along the M4 between junctions 35 and 36 when a tyre blew. He pulled onto the hard shoulder, put his hazard lights on, and called for assistance. About 45 minutes later, Mr



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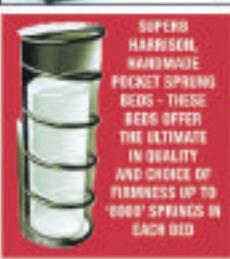


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# '20's PLENTY FOR BETWS!'

*– say speed limit campaigners*

BETWS residents worried about the speed of cars travelling through their area, have joined a national campaign to have speed limits reduced to 20mph in certain residential areas.

Local campaigners claim that slower speeds bring 22 per cent fewer casualties and a safer quality of life.

They are asking for the speed limits in all residential streets to be altered, rather than having speed bumps or other "expensive" traffic calming measures installed.

Gareth Harris, a Betws resident, contact-

ed 20's Plenty for Us in August with concerns about inappropriately high speeds.

A family friend's 11-year-old daughter had been knocked down and seriously injured.

He became aware of the strength of feeling about the issue when campaigning around Betws as a Green Party candidate in the May and August elections.

The national 20's Plenty for Us campaign claims that 20mph is seven times safer than 30mph as thinking times increase and stopping distances reduce. It is also good for the environment.

Some car trips can be transferred to walking,

cycling or public transport; further cutting congestion, and creating massive savings to society from more active lifestyles.

Pilot schemes in Warrington were estimated to give an 800 per cent rate of return in casualties avoided.

A petition in the Betws area collected 120 signatures in the first few days.

Anna Semlyen, national campaign manager for 20's Plenty for Us, said: "I am delighted to help 20's Plenty for Betws' launch.

"They join over 160 grassroots campaigns around the country all supporting 20's Plenty where people live."

A spokesperson for BCBC said it did not have plans to alter the speed limit at the moment. "We would always urge drivers to take great care when travelling in residential areas and drive at a speed that is appropriate to the conditions.

"We haven't received any information on this campaign, but we are always happy to discuss any concerns brought to our attention. There are no plans to introduce

20mph speed limits at this time."

To get involved in the campaign, contact 20's Plenty for Betws via: betws@20splentyforus.org.uk, or speak to the Betws campaign manager, Andy Chyba, on 07810 663241. Also, see the campaign website: www.betws.20splentyforus.org.uk.

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

## Bank cards are taken from car

POLICE are asking for the public's help to identify a man in connection with the theft of bank cards from Esporta (now Virgin Active), Bridgend.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, July 11, when the cards were stolen from a wallet in the male changing rooms of the gym at around 12 noon.

The suspect then made his way into Bridgend town and withdrew £800, using the stolen cards from Halifax at 12.32pm. He also withdrew £500 from

Nationwide at 12.45pm and a further £1,000 from the town's Santander branches.

The suspect is described as a white male of large build with a goatee beard. He was wearing an Adidas-style blue t-shirt with three white stripes to each arm, grey jogging bottoms, white trainers and a black cap.

Anyone who may have information, can contact Bridgend Police on 101, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## Local girl weds in Gibraltar



...LOCAL APES WERE AMONG THE GUESTS!

JOHN AND KAREN McDonald, previously of Quarry House, Llanmaes, are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter, Gemma, to Edward Brereton of Watford on September 27.

Land Spain on September 28 ended the couple's dreams of a sunshine wedding, but the lack of tourists out in the rain on the Rock of Gibraltar meant the local apes boosted the wedding guest's numbers!.

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## LOCAL MAN ESCAPES A JAIL SENTENCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)  
He added: "For obvious reasons, he has been in a bit of a state. Everybody regards his behaviour as out of character."

Lloyd, he added, accepted that he was an alcoholic and was also battling a cocaine habit.

"He now wishes to have a law-abiding life. The incident was short lived, and he has not offended since, and he accepts he is stuck with the verdict of the jury."

The Recorder said he had been correctly convicted on the evidence.

He said that Lloyd had called his former friend "slag, slut and a dirty little \*\*\*" on text messages.

He said he had gone to her home to interrogate her about her movements.

"But true to character, he became angry and headbutted her for no good reason."

Recorder Jenkins described Lloyd as a coward, who fled from her home when she said she was going to tell her brother what had happened.

"I find you to be a coward and a bully. You should be absolutely ashamed of what you did. In evidence, you tried to slur her character. The jury rejected that, as do I."

He said that Lloyd had been involved in two previous incidents with her, one in a restaurant.

He added: "You have escaped custody by the skin of your teeth. If you breach this sentence, you'll go to prison. It's your first and last chance."

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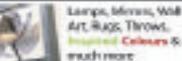
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# Out and About with The GEM

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I look forward to your future competitions.

Mrs Cynthia Davies,  
St Athan.



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Entrance £1.50; open 10am-4pm; free car parking.

## Toys and trains

A TOY and train sale takes place on Saturday, October 13, at 10.30am-3pm in Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, CF64 2NS.

Traders from all over Wales, and England, will offer thousands of items, with prices ranging from a few pounds upwards.

Contact 01643 702757 and 07966 694579, or check the website at [www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk](http://www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk).

## Collectors' fair

THERE will be an antique and collectors' fair on

October 13-14 in the new luxury marquee at Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas.

There will be pottery, porcelain, silver, clocks, paintings and jewellery (including a rare silver Chester hallmarked 1906 'Iona' Celtic design brooch).

Entrance £1.50; open 10am-4pm; free car parking.

## Diabetes talk

DIABETES UK's voluntary group will meet on Tuesday, October 16, in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth at 7.30pm.

The speaker is a Vale pharmacist and new members or friends will be welcome.

For details, telephone 01446 746639.

## Singer song-writer contest

YOUNG people in the Vale are being invited to take part in the original singer song-writer competition – an Arts Connect collaborative competition for young people aged between 14 years and 25 years.

Entrants will have the chance to win a recording session at Machine Rooms, Culverhouse Cross, launch their EP at a regional venue, feature in Plugged music magazine, and perform at high profile events.

Entry forms need to be returned by 5pm on

October 18.

Arts Connect is a collaboration between the Vale, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Bridgend and Merthyr councils.

For more information or an application form, visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or telephone 01446 709805.

## Barry at War expands to Heritage Centre

THE 'Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre' has been chosen as the name for the Barry at War-operated facility at the Barry Tourist Railway Station, Barry Island.

Group chairman, Ade Pitman, explained: "Although our group name suggests that we are only interested in the history of Barry town, our research actually spans the entire length of south Wales."

"Popular with people on our Facebook page, the name 'Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre' helps to portray the inclusive nature of the facility."

"Not only will it be used to gather and share

the wartime memories of local people, but it will also signpost heritage tourists and interested people, to the region's other military history locations, such as the many rare Second World War bunkers dotted along the Glamorgan coastline, the Island Farm prisoner-of-war camp near Bridgend, Llandow Airfield, and other museums."

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will be holding an open day on Sunday, November 4, at the Barry Tourist Railway Station, Barry Island.

Call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161 or see the Barry at War website at [www.barryatwar.info](http://www.barryatwar.info) for more information.

## NEXT GREAT SHOW... CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE

SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 2012  
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Website: [www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk](http://www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk)

## Coffee host!

A charity coffee morning held at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, October 9, was hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, and not the Mayor of Barry, as previously stated.

## AMBER FAIRS ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR

at the Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas CF5 6SJ  
on Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th October  
10.00am - 4.00pm - Entry £1.50



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# Sue and Leo are a perfect match!

WHEN Sue Taylor tells people her "perfect match" is a Leo, she isn't talking about horoscopes or star signs.

Mrs Taylor, of Broadlands, became one of Wales' newest guide dog owners when she was paired with Leo the golden Labrador.

She said the partnership has restored her confidence to get out and about independently after her sight began to deteriorate 20 years ago, when her daughter was four.

A series of operations followed, and she eventually decided to apply for a guide dog.

"I had always loved dogs anyway. We already had a pet golden retriever, Misty, but from the moment Leo walked into the room, my life changed. He was going to allow me to be independent."

Intensive training sessions followed, with Mrs Taylor learning how to navigate a route and give Leo the appropriate commands.

The pair qualified as a guide dog partnership in July this year.

"The first time I put



**PICTURED:**  
Sue Taylor with  
guide dog Leo.

Leo's harness on, I got a buzz," said Mrs Taylor. "They say your posture changes when you get a dog and it's true. When you use a long cane, you walk with your head down and at times you are invisible. It can catch in uneven paving and jar your elbow.

"Now I have Leo, I am getting more confident and if I do become anxious, I have a friend I can talk to or cwtch.

"My husband Don, who has been brilliant over the years, can now be my husband and not my carer."

Leo proved a star attraction when he visit-

ed the Bridgend Feasitval last month: "Everyone wanted to make a fuss of him," said Mrs Taylor.

"When he is running free or playing with Misty, he is a two-year-old puppy, but when he is in harness, he is in work mode and his posture actually changes. I say he has his Sat Nav on!

"You don't want to offend people, but when a guide dog is working it should not be distracted. It can be dangerous, especially if you are crossing the road."

Mrs Taylor and Leo will be joining other volunteers at a collection day to mark Guide Dogs Week in Bridgend town centre on Saturday, October 13.

Meanwhile, the grandmother-of-two is planning to spread the word by giving talks to school groups and other organisations.

"A guide dog costs £50,000 from birth to retirement and the service receives no government funding. We rely on donations and legacies from members of the public, for which I am most grateful.

"Leo has totally changed my life."

## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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You will not always have to fund the legal fees for bringing your claim and you may be entitled to a No Win No Fee agreement, or your claim may be funded by legal expenses insurance.

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## Miskin pony breeder is honoured



Dr Wynne Davies with his grandchildren, Leah and Joseph. Photograph by T Best.

**THE Showing World lifetime outstanding achievement award at the Horse Of The Year Show (NEC Birmingham, October 3-7) was presented to Dr Wynne Davies, MBE, of the Ceulan Stud, Miskin, Pontyclun.**

*It was the first time the award has come to Wales. Dr Davies retired this year after reporting for 'Horse and Hound' magazine for 60 years, and 58 years of reporting the Royal Welsh Show.*

*He has been assistant/publicity officer of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for 50 years, president in 1984, main ring commentator at the Royal Welsh Show for*

### Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D743.

● £2,000: 339236.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £9,000, was not won this week.  
● £10: 6 8 4 9 1 6 , 648298, 675980, 285368, 489400, 551885, 334321, 582125, 369669, 778490, 561150, 610970, 878957, 434834, 213849, 786263, 279858, 877126, 656290, 111773.

● £5: 251857, 840092, 766493, 194082, 358334, 822174, 267047, 738929, 188834, 505763, 250580, 229993, 600590, 153733, 822179, 623263, 784306, 249820, 186422, 879527, 566384, 701068, 575107, 325244, 984948, 152321, 620903, 478539, 845556, 462880, 927919, 763430, 537360, 609644, 271689, 586993, 572042, 535819, 718418, 358744, 492726, 479007, 679239, 848933, 273769, 782887, 722752, 617930, 379178, 729011, 181973, 608661, 728382, 144094, 899786, 861704, 639267, 184436, 269879, 605420.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## Chefs bring a local flavour to Food and Drink Festival

**PREPARATIONS are well under way for this year's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.**

Supported by Waitrose, the festival showcases the town at its best.

Crowned as Best Community Event at the National Tourism Awards for Wales in 2010 – the festival is one of Wales' most popular events.

The varied programme of food demonstrations sees a number of well-known Vale chefs bringing a distinctly local flavour to events this year.

There is a whole new intimate set-up for the demo area. This is now adjacent to the main exhibition site on North Road, courtesy of John and Sarah at Xantippe.

The new kitchen will play host to a wide variety of cooking demos to suit all palates and abilities, all free of charge.

Taking to the stage this year, are the likes of Cowbridge's David Lawal from Living Coffee, who will be cooking up traditional Jamaican curried goat; the sous chef at Arborreal, Richard Johns, who will be using

locally-sourced ingredients for a world-inspired sharing platter; and Aun Rotjarin Scott of the popular That Elephant restaurant in Cowbridge.

Vale-based food writer, broadcaster and chef Angela Gray, of Llanerch Vineyard Cookery School, will be running a masterclass at this year's festival, taking place on Sunday afternoon.

Families may also be interested to see St Clare's School, Porthcawl during their demo on Saturday, perfect for young foodies.

For more information on events, exhibitors and entertainment please visit [www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org](http://www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org).

## WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

### Report the potholes!

THE Vale Council's potholes campaign, 'The BIG Fill', moves on to the Illtyd ward, Barry, on October 13 - 14.

Local residents can report potholes between October 8-12. Phone the Vale Council on 01446 700111, email the BIG Fill team at [thebigfill@valeofglamorgan.co.uk](mailto:thebigfill@valeofglamorgan.co.uk) or plot the location of the pothole on the interactive map on the council's website.

### Pastel landscapes

ON October 18, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Abergavenny artist Jantien Powell, who will give a demonstration of painting a landscape in pastels.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm, and visitors are welcome.

For the society's full programme, see [www.cowbridgeartsociety.com](http://www.cowbridgeartsociety.com).

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# Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School

Age 11 - 16 Girls' School - Co-Educational 6th Form

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY, CF62 9YQ - Tel. 01446 403500

OPEN EVENING: Thursday 18th October 2012 6pm - 8pm

OPEN MORNINGS: Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th October from 9am - 1pm



## The staff and pupils of Bryn Hafren welcome parents and children to our Open Week . . .

Our open evening will be held on Thursday 18th October 6pm-8pm. There will be a formal welcome by Head Teacher Mr Phil Whitcombe at both 6pm and 7pm. You are invited to attend either session followed by a guided tour of the school.

The open mornings on 15th, 16th, 17th of October are a wonderful opportunity to see the school in action during the working day and to experience the quality of education and care of which the school is so proud. All prospective parents are welcome, no appointments necessary.

## Examination Success:

The examination successes at Bryn Hafren continue with the eighth year of rising GCSE results. In 2012 the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A\* to C was an all time record of 74%, a rise of 33% over the last eight years.

Mr Whitcombe, Headteacher was delighted by the academic performance of the pupils, including an incredible 96% of pupils who gained at least 5 GCSEs A to G. The value added at all Key Stages is well ahead of our targets and the performance of similar schools in Wales.

This year an all time record 47% of pupils gained at least 10 top grade GCSEs with a significant number gaining 14 or more. The GCSE results marked another outstanding year of examination success for Bryn Hafren pupils.



## Curriculum:

Bryn Hafren offers a rich, broad and balanced curriculum with lessons being taught in modern high specification rooms. The school is just completing the refurbishment of the Design Technology Department which includes four workshops and a computer suite and The Media Department with two specifically designed and equipped rooms. In addition all the Science Laboratories, ICT suites, Art department, Food Technology and Learning Resource Centre have recently been refurbished. Recent building additions include a Hair and Beauty suite and an Astro Turf area. The curriculum has further been enhanced by the addition of Wider Key Skills at KS3, giving pupils an equivalent of 2 GCSEs at grade B. The Welsh Baccalaureate is studied in KS4 and KS5, giving the pupils additional and vital qualifications as they move into further education or employment. The provision of extra curricular activities is an outstanding feature of the school and extends pupils' learning experiences.



Astro Turf, Fitness Suite and Pool -  
Bryn Hafren's sporting facilities  
are outstanding.



Science - One of the newly refurbished Science Laboratories



Residential experiences include language and culture courses as well as outdoor pursuits. Pupils recently visited Mt Vesuvius, Sorrento, Italy.

## Pastoral Care:

The school is very proud of the pastoral care given to all pupils. We strive to create a happy, working atmosphere where all pupils are valued and encouraged to fulfil their potential. The Year Heads and Form Tutor system offers good support and guidance in a caring community. Progress is monitored and individual pupils are encouraged to achieve academic success in a fully inclusive environment. The school works closely with parents via Form Tutor and Parents' Evenings through the year. In addition the school welcomes individual contact with parents as required.



The Performing Arts Department produced a highly successful production of *The Wizard of Oz* with over 100 from all year groups involved.

They are currently rehearsing for the next production

*The Sound of Music* which will run in November at The Memorial Hall.



ICT suite - A huge investment in ICT has created excellent opportunities for all pupils.



Awards ceremony - All pupils are regularly rewarded for good attendance, effort improvement and excellence in lessons.



The Learning Resource Centre is available for pupil use before school, break and lunchtimes as well as after school.

# 'FoI request shows Council is being short-changed on social care budget'

A PLAID CYMRU Vale councillor says that local authorities will struggle to balance their social care budgets after recent Government legislation.

Coun Chris Franks told The GEM that the Vale Council will face a shortfall of £1.4 million because the Welsh Government has failed to properly fund a £50 a week cap on social care.

He said: "Plaid Cymru has discovered this information following a Freedom of Information (FoI) request."

The £50 a week cap, which means that no one should pay more than £50 per week, was introduced under the One Wales Government.

Coun Franks said that it has meant that thousands of additional people, who were paying more for their care previously, are now applying for services provided by

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

the local authority.

Coun Frank said: "In the Vale of Glamorgan, the shortfall is more than £1.4m, after an additional 184 people applied for non-residential care since the £50 a week limit was introduced in April 2011."

Lindsay Whittle, Plaid Cymru's social services spokesperson and a former Caerphilly council leader, said: "The £50 a week cap was introduced by the Plaid Labour Coalition Government, but it now appears that this beneficial scheme is not being funded properly by the Labour government.

"Last year, a study by the Social Services Improvement Agency (SSIA) warned about additional pressures on local authority budgets as a result of the new community charge charges system, and highlighted increasing demand, par-

ticularly from older people who were previously self-funders."

Luke Nicholas, Plaid Cymru's candidate for the forthcoming Cardiff South and Penarth Parliamentary by-election, said: "The Welsh Government's failure to properly deliver on its promise to cap social charges is undermining the finances of councils who will be forced to cut services or raise council tax to cover the shortfall."

Coun Franks, a former South Wales Central AM, said that councillors had been made aware of the vast shortfall.

He added: "The Vale of Glamorgan's social services budget is in crisis – it is £3m overspent. The Welsh government has been willing to bail out health boards with far greater shortfalls, yet won't provide local authorities with the uplift to the Block Grant to Wales.

"This means an additional £35 million over the period for local authority social services.

The latest statistical release on budgeted expenditure by local government for 2012-13, published by Welsh Government, shows expenditure on social services is budgeted to increase by four per cent."

At a recent meeting of the Vale Council's scrutiny committee for social care and health, it was revealed that, during 2011/2012, social services spent £18.2m on services that were provided via contractual arrangements with the independent sector.

Of this amount, £10.7m was spent on care home services (which includes nursing and residential care) and £7.5m on domiciliary care services (which includes home care and day care services).

## Age Concern appear on TV



ABOVE: Charles Curran with The One Show's Lucy Siegle.

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan were "thrilled and excited" to appear on the BBC's *One Show* during the evening of Wednesday, September 16.

They recruited 31 new volunteers at the live filming at the Motorpoint Arena.

There is still the opportunity for volunteers to come forward.

For further information, visit [www.volunteer-accardiff.org.uk](http://www.volunteer-accardiff.org.uk) or telephone 02920 560952 for an informal chat.

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## Community council attacks proposals to develop land

A "PACKED" public meeting in Ewenny Village Hall recently voiced its opposition to plans by the Picton-Turberwell Estate to develop a patch of land off Abbey Road, Ewenny, which is designated as 'green wedge'.

The outline planning application by the Picton-Turberwell Estate proposes to erect five dwellings in the field that is off Abbey Road, near to the Wick Road junction, as an 'enabling development' to facilitate the restoration of the Ewenny Priory House.

Around 70 people attended the meeting, and the community council successfully obtained an extension to the consultation period for letters to the Vale planning department, which were to be submitted by October 11.

The clerk for the community council told The GEM, on behalf of the body: "The residents are not happy at all. Who is going to benefit from this?"

She added that nobody in the village had had access to the priory or grounds in recent times. "People have bought houses here because they are looking at a green wedge. If they obtain outline planning then that opens the floodgates to more development."

"Abbey Road is a narrow, single-lane road and then when you enter Wick Road, the main road through the village, there is nasty congestion. There have been some small accidents and now a big one is waiting to happen. More cars would make things worse."

"This is a great sadness to us all if it goes ahead. It is the beginning of the end for Ewenny, the thin end of the wedge."

A statement on behalf of the Picton-Turberwell estate said that the site was identified as not "causing any material harm" to the green wedge.

The day provides a platform to highlight some of the issues that

It continued: "The Priory is a Grade II\* listed building situated within an important national monument. There is now a genuine and pressing need to raise substantial funds for a restoration scheme in order to ensure the continued survival of the property which has fallen into considerable disrepair over the last 30 years."

"The owners have submitted the planning application as enabling development and the planning authority may be expected to ensure that the proceeds are ring-fenced for the restoration scheme by way of a formal legal agreement or conditional controls."

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

## Free swimming lessons for elderly

WORLD Arthritis Day is on October 12, and Halo Leisure is inviting people of all ages, living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in Bridgend county borough, to visit one of its centres at Bridgend, Pyle, Pencoed, Ogmore, Garw, Ynysawdre and Maesteg, for advice and guidance on getting more physically active.

These conditions affect an estimated 120 million men, women and children of all ages across Europe, a spokesperson explained:

"If you are 60 or over, you can get free swimming, and free swimming lessons, as part of the Welsh Government's free swim initiative – ask at your local Halo pool at Bridgend, Maesteg, Pyle, Pencoed or Ynysawdre."

## Christmas Child shoebox appeal

A BRIDGEND optician is helping disadvantaged and vulnerable youngsters receive Christmas gifts this year by collecting shoe boxes filled with toys for the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

The global annual appeal, organised by charity Samaritan's Purse, provides gifts to needy children in more than 100 countries.

Last year, the store filled a total of 70 shoe boxes and, with the help of the community, it hopes to repeat that success this year.

Ann Simpkin, director of Specsavers Bridgend, said: "Christmas is a time for giving, but that doesn't necessarily mean gifts for just our loved ones. This should also be a time for us to give to the less fortunate and show

them that we care.

"We hope that local people give generously to make a disadvantaged child's Christmas a happier one."

People wanting to donate a box should specify whether theirs is intended for a boy or girl, as well as an age category: two-four-years-old, five-nine, or 10-14, which organisers say must be made clear on the outside packaging.

The boxes will be dispatched to Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. A donation of £2.50 for each box should also be made for the associated delivery costs that the charity is charged. The closing date for all boxes and donations is Thursday, November 15.

To donate a shoe box, visit the Specsavers store on Adare Street.

Suggested toys include: soft toys, tennis balls, finger puppets, jigsaw puzzles, yo-yos, building blocks and small musical instruments.

For boys: trucks and cars; for girls: dolls, clip on earrings, small items of jewellery.

Educational supplies can include: felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap and flannel, while other items can include: non-chocolate sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, caps and hats.

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## YOUR LOCAL NHS IS CHANGING... PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

There are big challenges facing the NHS in Wales, and we need to change the way we deliver healthcare to make sure we can meet those challenges. From 26th September to 19th December ABM University Health Board is carrying out public engagement to talk to you about our ideas, and hear what you think of them.

To find out more about these ideas, please visit our website: [www.changingforthebetter.org.uk](http://www.changingforthebetter.org.uk) where you will find a range of information, including documents and videos; plus details of how you can feedback your views.

And please come and meet us – we're holding a series of information drop-in days, (details below) across Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend. **Please refer to the website for further information**

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Am ragor o wybodaeth am y syniadau hyn, ewch i [www.changingforthebetter.org.uk](http://www.changingforthebetter.org.uk) lle mae dogfennau a fideos, yn ogystal â manylion am sut y gallwch roi adborth.

Dewch i gwrdd â ni – rydym yn cynnal cyfres o ddiwrnodau galw heibio, Port Talbot a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ewch i'r wefan am wybodaeth bellach.

### VENUE / VENUE

### DATE / DATE

The Pavilion, Porthcawl, Bridgend / Y Pafiliwn, Porthcawl, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	11am - 7pm	17 Hyd / Oct
Scout & Guide Headquarters, Brynmill, Abertawe / Pencadlys y Sgwtaid a'r Gediad, Brynmill, Abertawe	11am - 7pm	22 Hyd / Oct
Carnegie Hall, Skewen, Neath / Carnegie Hall, Sgiwen, Castell-nedd	11am - 7pm	26 Hyd / Oct
Maesteg Leisure Centre, Bridgend / Canolfan Hamdden Maesteg, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	11am - 7pm	31 Hyd / Oct
Croeserw Community Centre, Port Talbot / Canolfan Gymunedol Croeserw, Port Talbot	11am - 7pm	2 Tach / Nov
Gorseinon Centre, Swansea / Canolfan Gorseinon, Abertawe	11am - 7pm	8 Tach / Nov
Grand Theatre, Swansea / Theatr y Grand, Abertawe	11am - 7pm	13 Tach / Nov
Arts Centre, Pontardawe, Neath / Canolfan y Celfyddydau, Pontardawe, Castell-nedd	11am - 7pm	16 Tach / Nov
ARC Centre, Bridgend / Canolfan ARC, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	11am - 7pm	22 Tach / Nov
Morriston Leisure Centre, Swansea / Canolfan Hamdden Treforys, Abertawe	11am - 7pm	28 Tach / Nov
Gendros Community Centre, Swansea / Canolfan Gymunedol Gendros, Abertawe	11am - 7pm	6 Rhag / Dec
Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend / Canolfan Bywyd y Pyl, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	11am - 6pm	29 Hyd / Oct
Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot / Theatr y Dywysoges Frenhinol, Port Talbot	11am - 7pm	19 Tach / Nov
St. Hilary's Church Hall, Killay / Neuadd Eglwys St Hilary, Cillâ	12pm - 7pm	26 Tach / Nov
Neath Town Hall, Neath / Neuadd y Dref, Castell Nedd	11am - 7pm	30 Tach / Nov

Additional date and venue in Bridgend – awaiting confirmation. Contact us below for details!

Dyddiad a lleoliad ychwanegol ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr – i'w cadarnhau. Cysylltwch â ni am fanylion.

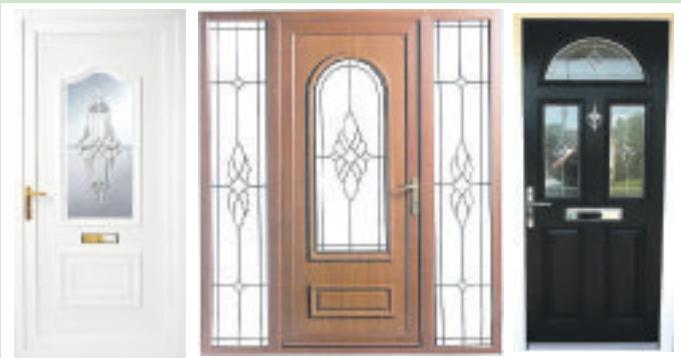
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## Blazing a trail in the autumn months

*In this article, HANNAH STEPHENSON takes a look at some of the trees and other plants which will be providing us with magnificent autumn hues – plus, find out what else needs doing in the garden this month.*

**A** RICH tapestry of colour is enveloping our landscape as leaves turn golden, orange and even red, thanks to a massive growth of foliage during the wet summer, followed by cold nights.

The trees and other plants which will be providing us with magnificent hues include the maple and Japanese maple, native oak trees, Nyssa sinensis and Parrotia persica (Persian ironwood).

The winter-flowering cherry, stag's horn sumach, sorbus (wild mountain ash) and varieties of cornus can also paint a palette of vivid colours.

Following a wet summer, the recent warm weather has resulted in the production of lots of chlorophyll and increased sugar levels in trees.

When the night-time temperature falls, it sends a message to the tree to stop growing and then the leaves will start turning, breaking down the chlorophyll to reveal autumnal pigments in shades of red, orange and yellow.

Venturing out on autumn walks may give you inspiration to grow some colourful specimens in your own garden. Maple, vine and mahonia leaves offer shades of red, while sedum flowerheads provide subtle russet tones which will stay on the plant well into winter.

In larger gardens, use trees carefully so that their rich hues are a highlight, rather than just a small part of an extremely busy planting scheme.

Keep green as your main colour in the garden because if you cram it with coloured foliage it can be far from restful.

Some trees take on more refined, subtle shades, such as yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) with its beautiful buttery yellow foliage, or the common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), which turns a glorious shade of copper.

If you are going to plant a maple, avoid planting it in windy, exposed sites as its fragile leaves will be shredded. The best time to plant is autumn, when the soil is still warm, to give the trees time to establish before winter sets in.

Maples thrive in well-drained soil enriched with

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some well-rotted garden compost and will do well in full sun or dappled shade, and are ideal growing in the gentle shade of larger trees, provided their planting hole isn't completely swamped with the roots of the larger specimen.

Dig in leafmould to give the tree a boost. They shouldn't need much pruning, just snip out any dead shoot tips as the buds begin to open in spring.

Here's five of the best trees which you shouldn't be without in autumn:

***Cornus kousa 'Satomi'***: This amazing flowering dogwood offers something for every season. In autumn the leaves turn fiery red and orange, while large, deep-pink, star-shaped bracts appear in late spring. It also bears strawberry-like fruits in late summer that continue into winter.

***Nyssa sinensis***: The deciduous leaves on the Chinese tupelo provide a wide array of autumn colours, from mellow yellows to fiery reds.

It thrives in acid soil and you'll need to give it plenty of room, as it grows up to 10m (30ft) in height and width.

***Sorbus-x 'Joseph Rock'***: This popular small tree was introduced to the west after it was found in China in the early 20th century by the famed plant hunter, Joseph Rock. This Chinese mountain ash has cool green, feather-like leaves which turn fabulous shades of blood red in autumn before falling.

Its stunning autumn colour is complemented by large clusters of bright yellow fruit.

***Euonymus europaeus 'Red Cascade'***: Seen either as a shrub or trained as a small tree, this form of our native hedgerow spindle boasts a combination of bright red autumn foliage, turning purple as it ages, which colours at the same time as its generous crops of red and orange fruits. It's an adaptable plant, happy in most reasonable soils in sun or light shade and growing to 3m (10ft).

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)**

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## “Jobs to do around the



### Who wants to build what and where in Vale?

Taylor Wimpey – Land south of the railway line, Trem Echyn, Rhoose Point, Rhoose – Proposed development of 90 residential units with associated public open space, landscaping, the creation of two new access points into the site from trem Echyn and diversion of the Public Right of Way. Mr T Salter – 51 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth – Application for renewal of permission 2007/00674/FUL; second storey extension, new garage, ground floor rear conservatory. Clare Pulton –

Kelowna, St Hilary – Removal of three conifer trees on access drive. Minor reductions on one lime tree and one beech tree in the rear garden. Mr Justin Otto – Parkside House, 1 and 2 Park Road, Penarth – Certificate is sought to confirm development pursuant to planning permission 2007/01684/FUL as commenced. Mrs Simone Johnson – 2 Co-operative House, Rock Road, St Athan – Change of use from A1 shop to A1 shop and holistic therapy rooms. Mr and Mrs Leighton Kellaway – The Rickyard, Upper Farm, Rhoose Road, Rhoose – Proposed double garage with home office/store above. Mr Paul Richards – 14 Pembroke Terrace, Penarth – First floor rear balcony. Valad Developments (Llantrisant) Ltd – Land adjacent to Cowbridge Road and A473 (inc Leeks Department Store, former Purofile works and Staedtler factory site), Talbot Green, CF72 8XU – Development of new town centre comprising a 10,801 sq m gross food store (Class A1); 8 pump petrol filling station; 35,522 sq m gross retail floor space (Class A1); 600sq m gross cafe space (Class A1); 1,000 sq m financial/professional service space (Class A1); 2,390 sq m gross food and drink space (Class A3); 1,400 sq m gross office space (Class B1); 750 sq m gross Class D1 space; 8 screen cinema; 80 bed hotel; 64 dwellings (Class C2/C3); multi-storey and surface level car parking; associated access infrastructure, reprofiling of land. Landscaping and floor alleviation works (further information comprising Environmental Statement addendum, Design and Access Statement addendum and revised plans received August 2012). Welsh Government – Cardiff Grounds Disposal Site, Cardiff – Disposal of dredged arising associated with offshore works at Hinkley Point C.

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### Getting the right trees this autumn

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Katsura

(*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*): The heart-shaped green leaves of this dainty woodland tree turn to rich colours of yellow, orange and red leaves in autumn and produce the sweet scent of caramel or candylfloss as they fall.

This tree, which works well as a stand-alone specimen, should be planted in soil enriched with organic matter in a sheltered spot, as the coppery young leaves are prone to spring frost damage.

Best of the bunch - Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*).

Of course, these wonderfully elegant trees are the jewel in the crown of autumn and there is a variety for every size of garden, whether you want to plant them as part of a scheme or as a stand-alone specimen in a pot.

Good container varieties include *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum 'Garnet'*, with its feathery, garnet-coloured leaves that turn bright scarlet in autumn and look as if they have been shredded. Its rounded, compact habit makes it a perfect focal point for a small garden, particularly in a container.

What to do this week:  
Continue to plant up winter pots, adding bulbs to extend the season out hardy primulas raised from seeds or divisions.

Sow hardy annuals including cornflowers, poached-egg plants and California poppies outside now for flowering next year.

son of interest into spring.

Take cuttings of lavender by pulling whole shoots away from the main stem with a heel. They can be rooted directly into gritty soil outside, or in a cold frame.

Take hardwood cuttings of privet, potentilla, rosemary, berberis, laurel and holly.

Feed your lawn with a low-nitrogen fertiliser sold as autumn lawn feed, and repair small bare patches by sowing seed.

Thin out oxygenating and floating plants which have outgrown their space in the pond.

Start pruning climbing roses when the flowers fade, removing dead or diseased wood first.

Dig up bulbs and corms of non-hardy summer varieties to store in a dry, frost-free place over winter.

Sparingly water potted cyclamen in the greenhouse that were dried off for summer to encourage them back into growth.

Plant out hardy primulas raised from seeds or divisions.

Sow hardy annuals including cornflowers, poached-egg plants and California poppies outside now for flowering next year.

### RICS sees hopeful signs in Welsh housing market

LOCAL estate agents are starting to see an improvement in the market – according to an industry survey.

The Welsh housing market should see a slightly stronger end to the year, with transaction levels expected to pick up and price falls predicted to slow, according to the latest Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) UK housing market survey (October 9).

During September, chartered surveyors' expectations for future sales reached their highest level since June.

An RICS spokesperson said that last month, prices in the Welsh housing market did continue to fall, but at a slower pace than in previous months.

David E Baker FRICS, of David Baker Co Ltd, Penarth, said: "September has been fairly good,

with more viewings than expected.

"More offers were made than in August, and it is looking reasonable for October and maybe November."

Tony Filice, RICS Wales residential spokesperson and director of Kelvin Francis Chartered Surveyors, Cardiff, said: "Sales are taking place where vendors are prepared to be flexible on price and this is particularly prevalent in the upper price range stock.

"The proposal to allow parents and grandparents to act as guarantors, in order for their offspring to obtain mortgage finance, is good news, but as this is not coming into force until 2015, this is no use at present.

"The help is needed now. We would welcome a stamp duty holiday for first time buyers, even if just for three months, to help the market pick up and get buyers in Wales onto the property ladder sooner rather than later."

### ‘WE HAVE TOOLS TO GET JOB DONE’

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## Bridgend County Care and Repair Agency Helping our vulnerable residents to stay warm

**B**RIDGEND County Care and Repair is working with npower's 'Health Through Warmth' scheme to help local residents whose health is made worse by cold living conditions to improve the levels of warmth, comfort and quality of life for vulnerable people.

Living in a home without adequate heating can increase the risk of worsening health at any time of year, especially when people have illnesses.

Health Through Warmth works with Care and Repair Cymru to enable caseworkers to apply for

funding help from the npower 'Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund' for their clients who meet the scheme's criteria and who need heating and insulation measures but can't afford to fully fund the work themselves.

Illnesses that can be adversely affected by cold living conditions include respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, arthritis, terminal illness, mental health problems and mobility difficulties.

Mary Brice (80) is one local resident who was helped by the scheme when her boiler broke down. Mary has arthritis and pulmonary fibrosis which can be severely affected by the cold. Her central heating system was more than 30 years old and was constantly breaking down, leaving her without heating and hot water for prolonged periods of time.

Mary explains: "I'm so pleased to have a warm home again and to be without the worry of another breakdown. I'm grateful for the assistance from Care and Repair and to both npower Health Through Warmth and the charities that helped to fund the work."

To contact your local Care and Repair Agency, call 0300 111 3333. For details about Health Through Warmth, visit: [www.healththroughwarmth.com](http://www.healththroughwarmth.com).



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## OPEN EVENING

**on Thursday 18th October 2012**

**from 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm**

Headteacher, Mr Mike Clinch, will address prospective parents at the start of the evening in the school hall



*In the school survey parents said . . . "how happy and confident their children had been since starting at St Richard Gwyn."*

*In the latest inspection, St Richard Gwyn was judged to be a "Good" school because of our standards achieved and the positive attitudes of our pupils to work and school life.*



*Top performers in 2012.*



*Year 7 PGL activity trip September 2012*



*ABOVE AND RIGHT: An excellent Creative Arts department which produces innovative and enjoyable drama productions.*



*Opportunities outside the classroom include educational visits, music and drama club.*



*Watersports Trip Summer 2012 .*



*Ski Trip December 2011.*



*LEFT: St Richard Gwyn's Welsh National Basketball Champion team for 2012.*

**ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
ARGAE LANE, BARRY, VALE OF GLAMORGAN, CF63 1BL. Tel: 01446 729250**

**Email: [info@strichardgwyn.co.uk](mailto:info@strichardgwyn.co.uk)**

**For further information please visit our website [www.strichardgwyn.co.uk](http://www.strichardgwyn.co.uk)**



# ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Celebrates 25 years at the 'Top of the Class'

# Jubilee celebration coincides with launch of 'Year of Faith'

In just a few days time, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will mark its Silver Jubilee – and there is an open invitation to former pupils and members of staff, and parents whose youngsters have attended the school, to take part in the celebrations.

On October 20, from 12 noon to 4pm, the '25 Year Reunion' will be a day of nostalgia, a time to look to the future and an event launched by a special visitor.

His Grace, George Stack, the Archbishop of Cardiff, will celebrate Holy Mass – and there will be the chance for people to meet up with old school friends or work colleagues, have photos taken, enjoy a tour of the school, try today's school dinners, and watch the Old Boys' football match.

Souvenir booklets with photos from the last

25 years will be on sale, and photos on the day will be taken by a professional photographer.

Mrs Nicky Price, the school's chaplain, emphasised that a key part of the celebrations would be the Archbishop launching the 'Year of Faith' in the school.

"Pope Benedict XVI declared the Year of Faith, which encourages people to think about, or to rediscover, their faith and it is very important to us as a Catholic school."

*The Year of Faith runs from today, October 11, until November 24, 2013.*

St Richard Gwyn is funded by the church and is the only secondary faith school in the Vale.

The school dates back to 1965.

Mrs Price explained:

"It was originally called St Cadoc's. In 1987, the Cardiff area set up the tertiary system – the school was renamed St Richard Gwyn and it

took pupils aged from 11 to 16. A new sixth form – St David's College – was opened at the same time in Cardiff."

Nowadays, the school takes youngsters from St Joseph's Primary School in Penarth and St Helen's Primary School in Barry – along with Christian youngsters from across the Vale, and young people of other faiths. Some pupils attend from Cardiff.

The school is 650 strong and has a staff of 39 teachers and 21 support staff. Its strong faith-based ethos and the high standards recognised in ESTYN reports means it is over-subscribed.

Mrs Price said the key aim of the school was to help each individual

pupil "become the fullest human being they are meant to be" as a child of God.

Mr Dave Short, the head of pastoral care, stressed: "We are interested in the spiritual and moral aspect of a pupil – in fact, the child as a whole person. All the children in the school are noticed."

On the day The GEM visited the school, the

school staff knew all the names of the children reporting to the reception area requesting help.

Mr Short said that St Richard Gwyn was recognised for its excellent 'sector-leading practice in the care of children and providing opportunities for them'.

Three years ago, a committee of the Welsh Assembly was impressed by the maturity of St Richard Gwyn's head girl when she spoke to them – she was just 15-years-old!

It's hardly surprising then that with the commitment of the staff at St Richard Gwyn, youngsters have excelled in a wide range of areas: at Britain's top universities, in NASA, in the European Parliament, in developing countries across the globe, in charitable work and the sporting arena.

The school motto is *Optimum Tantum* – 'only the best is good enough for God', something both staff and pupils strive to live out in their daily lives.

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 22.

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All the governors, staff and students of St David's Catholic Sixth Form College, Cardiff want to wish our partner school St Richard Gwyn congratulations on their 25th anniversary. We can look forward to a further excellent 25 years of partnership.

St David's are pleased to invite all year 11 students and parents from St Richard Gwyn to an open evening in St David's Catholic Sixth Form College on the 8th November, 4pm-8pm. We hope to meet you soon.

Visit the website to find out more:

[www.st-davids-coll.ac.uk](http://www.st-davids-coll.ac.uk)

029 2049 8555

[enquiries@st-davids-coll.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-davids-coll.ac.uk)

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# St Richard Gwyn prepares to mark landmark Jubilee



*Flying the school banner! St Richard Gwyn pupils and the head of pastoral care, Mr Dave Short, in King Square, Barry letting local people know about the 25 Year Reunion event at the school.*

**PUPILS** of St Richard Gwyn joined forces with the Vale of Glamorgan Band recently to promote their Jubilee celebrations taking place at the school on October 20.

A school spokesman said: "They also helped to raise money for a brass band in Haiti which is still dealing

with the devastating aftermath of the 2010 earthquake

"The school is inviting anyone associated with it in the past, including former pupils, staff and parents to join them on the day."

*For more information about the Jubilee, please contact the school on 01446 729250 email admin@strichardgwyn.co.uk.*



*ABOVE: St Richard Gwyn pupils are strong supporters of the Fairtrade movement.*



*ABOVE: St Richard Gwyn's basketball team have been Welsh schools' champions for three years.*



*ABOVE: Can you name any of the members of staff in this photograph which was taken around 1972?*

# VOLUNTEERS GET STUCK IN AT NATURE RESERVE!



*ABOVE: Eagleswell Primary School pupils came along for the conservation day.*



*ABOVE: Some of the volunteers who helped on the day.*



*ABOVE: Nigel Ajax Lewis, of the wildlife trust, helps a pupil identify a caterpillar.*

## Charity support

A BARRY councillor, Richard Bertin, has signed up to be a regular donor of the Tall Ships Youth Trust.

He will give up some of his monthly allowance to the UK sail training organisation dedicated to the personal development of young people.

Coun Bertin said: "This is a fantastic group and I am pleased to support them."

## Beer festival

THIS year's Barry West End Beer Festival takes place on October 12-14 at the clubhouse.

The club has been the CAMRA club of the year for the Vale and Bridgend for the last seven years, and the real ale festival is a popular fixture.

Real ales available will include: O5 Gold, Thunderbird, Cwtch, Bishops Finger, Welsh Red and Ghost Ship.

## Businessmen are spared jail after appeal

**A LLANTWIT MAJOR** motor insurer and his father-in-law have been spared serving a jail sentence on health grounds.

Harbinder Singh Panesar made his money through his insurance company, Motorcare Warranties, which collapsed.

An investigation by the Financial Services Authority found that the company left a trail of victims whose motor insurance policies were worthless.

A bankruptcy hearing in the High Court banned Panesar from setting up a new business but he did so under the name, Motorcare Elite, and was then found to be in contempt of court.

The new firm's website described the business as "an established family-owned company that has built up an excellent reputation over the years."

But he had defied an

## Local Scouts say thanks

BARRY District Scouts have given a big thank you to RWE who have purchased new sails for their Topper Dinghies.

Dr Mark Picton, a manager at Aberthaw Power Station and Alun Cairns MP for the Vale attended a ceremony at the Sea Cadet Boating Base where Dr Picton was presented with a token of thanks by the District Commissioner Keith Williams.

They also examined the new pontooning provided by grants from the Vale of Glamorgan Grant and Barry Youth Watersports.

They were taken for a short sail in the boats with Nigel Vick, Barry District Scout treasurer and RYA sailing coach.

The boats then spent the weekend on the water giving many Scouts their first experience of sailing, as part of the Water Activity Weekend, which was visited by Bear Grylls the Chief Scout.

## Coaches up for top awards

THREE sports coaches from the area have been named as finalists in the Sport Wales Coach of the Year Awards 2012, to be held at the body's national centre in Cardiff on November 14.

Anthony Hughes, the athletics coach from the Vale, Pontyclun netball coach Sarah Goulden and Barry gymnastics coach Olivia Bryl are all up for top awards, the first for 'High Performance Coach of the Year', with

the latter two battling it out for 'Young Coach of the Year'.

After sifting through a record number of entries, a panel of judges – which included representatives of sports governing bodies, young people, sports coach UK, Disability Sport Wales and Sport Wales – have managed to whittle down the nominations and find their favourites.

For more information, visit: [www.sportwales.org.uk/coachoftheyear](http://www.sportwales.org.uk/coachoftheyear).

order by transferring assets and had underpaid his partner company, Templeton, by at least £2.3 million.

Panesar set up the company with his father-in-law Anthony Thomas.

He was initially sentenced to nine months jail and Thomas four months – but both were granted bail pending their appeal.

The Appeal Court quashed the prison terms due to the "exceptional personal mitigation" from his family, which included a letter from his daughter, Anysha, pleading that her father be spared going to prison.

Lord Justice Rix allowed the appeal at the Civil Appeal Court and suspended his sentence for two years.

The court was told that he is now "far removed from his once luxurious life" – and is "financially ruined and bankrupt".

Lord Rix said: "The public interest will be sufficiently vindicated by suspending the term".

The Panesars came to prominence in the Vale when Mr Singh paid an estimated £20,000 to host a party for his daughter Anysha which was featured on MTV's 'Super Sweet 16' series.

The court was told that Panesar, 45, and his wife Caroline, 43, now face losing their luxury £500,000 home and their six-acre estate in the Vale.

'A TAME AND MEDIOCRE OFFERING' SAYS OUR MAN

## Neeson's specific set of skills fail to liven up action sequel

HAVING come to widespread public notice in *Schindler's List*, Liam Neeson became one of the biggest stars in Hollywood, straddling the art/commerce divide by popping up in the likes of *The Phantom Menace* and *The Haunting*, but balancing it with the likes of *Rob Roy* and *Michael Collins*.

However, Neeson's career was in something of a stasis in the middle of the last decade, before action movie *Taken* became a surprise hit, and revitalised his career as a (older) man of action.

He returns as Bryan Mills in *Taken 2*, which sees the family of the men he slaughtered in the first film vowing revenge on Mills, his wife (Famke Janssen) and his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace); when Mills and his wife are 'taken', it is down to Kim to try and save them while Mills works

out when exactly to unleash his specific set of skills...

If you've watched any action movie and wondered what happens to the families of those nameless, and often faceless, henchmen of the film's main villain when they are offed in a variety of bloody and brutal ways, then *Taken 2* at least offers some kind of answer. They vow to take revenge on the man who murdered their boss.

From this jumping-off point you would hope that *Taken 2* would follow its progenitor in delivering a taut, surprisingly enjoyable, piece of work that makes no pretensions but delivers thrills and the pleasure of seeing Oskar Schindler beating up an array of swarthy, eastern European men in a range of leisurewear.

What you actually get is a film that undoes much of the goodwill the first outing, and simply offers a vague re-tread of that film devoid of the more satisfying moments; there is no foreboding monologue delivered with deadly intent by Neeson, nor is there



by GARETH JAMIESON

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anything that feels different or exciting.

Much of this is the fault of screenwriters Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen, writers who are more than versed in the world of generic action having, between them, written the likes of *The Transporter 2*, *Kiss Of The Dragon*, *Colombiana* and *Taken* itself.

Sadly, here they are on unsteady ground, the neat role-reversal of the first half of the film giving way to Neeson brawling his way through a rescue mission.

Yes, that was more or less what took place in

*Taken*, but that was shot through with some clever direction, a keen sense of playing the genre and Neeson's game and sturdy performance.

Here, with Olivier Megaton in the director's chair, he maintains his record of creating dull, by-the-numbers action movies. The action is edited to within an inch of his life, while the director fails to bring any sizzle or sparkle to proceedings.

The film is similarly encumbered by its faintly ridiculous 12A rating, the fight sequences softened down to almost nothing. Judging from the cuts, there is almost certainly a higher rated DVD in the offering, but it should have been the one on cinema screens, the fans of the first film being let down by the tame violence on show.

Even Liam Neeson seems slightly bored, even if his unerring, control-freak character is by miles the best thing on show here.

Belying his 60 years, Neeson shows he can still hang with the young guns in some hard-hitting moments, while his brow never

strays too far from being furrowed, the actor lighting up the film.

While Maggie Grace tries in a far more proactive role and doesn't do too bad a job, Famke Janssen is nothing but a damsel in distress and Rade Serbedzija, as the head of the family chasing Mills, can now add 'elitist eastern European baddie' to his CV.

While sequels very often fail to enthral like the original, it is disappointing that *Taken 2* didn't offer more for Neeson's Mills to do. Instead, its storyless re-tread of the first film is a damp squib rather than gigantic explosion.

**VERDICT:** A tame and mediocre offering, *Taken 2* takes the goodwill of the first film and throws it away.

Disappointing and underwhelming action coupled with a non-existent narrative, Liam Neeson's turn is the only real shining light here in a generic, by-the-numbers offering.

**Poor.**  
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Transporter* (2002), *Taken* (2008).

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL DEWI SANT

## Back in class with a busy few weeks



Pupils are enjoying cooked school dinners in the canteen for the first time.

IT has been a busy first few weeks in Ysgol Dewi Sant as the school opened its doors for the autumn term.

The school has grown in numbers since it opened back in September 2011, and now has 33 children from nursery to year-1.

The children have been eating hot school dinners in the hall for the first time and they have enjoyed climbing along the new activity trail in the playground. The new outdoor classroom area has proved a great success as children can now experiment in the outdoors under the canopy.

The school also won a HSBC school wildlife grant and has bought a variety of nesting boxes and bird feeders.

The children are now looking forward to seeing birds come here during the autumn and winter months.

### Onions

THE children at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant were delighted find a range of vegetables had grown in the



The children were delighted by the onions waiting for them in the school's garden this term.

school vegetable garden over the summer.

Along with a mixture of herbs including mint, coriander and chives, the children pulled out five extra large onions. They were the largest onions Miss Samuel had ever seen!

The children carefully cut the onions (trying not to cry!) and used them to make tasty, healthy pizzas.

RS

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# Flagship Music in the Vale concert a success



ABOVE: Vale dignitaries and performers are pictured at the Music in the Vale concert at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay.

RECENTLY, as part of its continuing aim to provide performance opportunities for young musicians, Music in the Vale held its flagship concert in the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay, sponsored by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

The AM reported: "The standard of the young soloists, both instrumentalists and singers, was breathtaking.

"I was delighted to see the Pierhead Building filled with

parents, friends, tutors and civic dignitaries to applaud their talent. Thanks go to the hard work of 'Music in the Vale' for enabling this to happen."

The Music in the Vale's competition is to be held this year on Saturday, November 24 (singers) and Sunday, November 25 (instrumentalists). The closing date for entries is November 5.

For more information, go to: [www.musicinthevale.org.uk](http://www.musicinthevale.org.uk).  
Ann Humphrey

## HALLOWEEN CHARITY CAVE CAPER

The first ever 'Halloween Cave Caper' has been jointly organised by Ty Hafan and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and will take place on Wednesday, October 31, at Dan-yr-Ogof Showcaves in the Neath Valley from 4pm to 9pm.

A three-kilometre walk through the spectacular cave system will make its way along spooky passageways before emerging temporarily into dark woods. The five-kilometre 'Halloween Scream and Zombie Run' starts in the Cathedral Cave, before going outside through the woods, where walkers will experience the eerie sounds and shadows of the countryside at night.

Tickets are £10, (£25 for a family ticket) plus a minimum sponsorship of £25 per participant. Children under four go free.

All money raised will be divided between Ty Hafan and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

FOLLOWING the success of last year's 'Great Wall of China Trek', Penarth hospice trekkers recently organised a reunion to celebrate their achievements one year on.

The annual treks are a favourite for people looking for a challenge while raising money for the nurses at the local Marie Curie Hospice – this dedicated group of 34 raised more than £130,000!

Penarth trekker Fran Johnson said: "The Great Wall of China challenge was the maddest thing I have ever done, but I loved every minute and I wouldn't hesitate to do it again."

"The challenge proved to be a life-changing experience, so when meeting up at the one-year reunion, I made up my mind to take on my next challenge, which is the Inca Trail in Peru, May 2014. The money I intend to raise will again go towards the care given by the Marie Curie Hospice."

This next big adventure, in May 2014, gives the chance to travel to Peru and trek the Inca Trail to support the work of the Marie Curie nurses.

Spread over 10 days, the challenge includes six days of trekking, taking in the sights of the former Royal Inca highway as you near the heart of the Peruvian jungle.

For more information, call the fundraising office on 02920 426068, or register online at: [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)

## Great Wall of China reunion

## Art Central Friends' AGM



ART Central Friends recently held their AGM at the Art Central Gallery, Old Town Hall, Barry.

Evening – a much-trodden path for the group's members – was 'What is a drawing?'

Many of the exhibits were not what the general public would think of and perceive as drawings, as there were items of mixed media, paintings, 3D work, as well as a piece of needle wall art, alongside images which we would all call drawings.

Professor Curtis challenged the group to explain how they could call their various art pieces a drawing.

It was a most interesting and lively discussion. The exhibition consists of an eclectic mix of works and ideas.

MJ

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## Autumn Colours at Scallywags



Scallywags of Cowbridge has been dressing children from all over the Vale and beyond for almost twenty five years. Fabulous new ranges from birth to 14 years have arrived from Timberland, Jean Bourget, Pampolina, Emile et Rose, Joules and many more. New to scallywags this autumn is Deux par Deux, gorgeous colourful and typically French! Also Lizzie Shirt, a fun contemporary range using variety of fabrics including polar fleece, hand dyed bold cotton prints and distinctive trimmings, all designed and beautifully made by the seaside in Cornwall. Coming soon – Eliane et Lena truly special dresses with beautiful detail and the softest of tulle, watch this space! Visit the Quarter Penny Cafe Cowbridge to receive your 10% off postcard which may be used against all of our new autumn/winter ranges, you will also be entered into our free prize draw for a chance to win a £100 gift voucher when you visit the shop! Voucher valid until 28/10/12.



deux  
par  
deux

Lelli Kelly

JEANBOURGET

Timberland

Emile et Rose



# Christmas Party Guide

## Plan your transport for that special Christmas party night

HERE are just 75 days to go until Christmas and local businesses and companies are starting to book their venues for the annual office party.

The Vale and Bridgend offer a huge

variety of festive destinations, from seaside restaurants, to country pubs.

Whatever the location of the venue your staff choose to mark their Christmas celebration, one thing is guaranteed: it will involve a journey back home late at night.

That is why it is advisable to heed the maxim 'Don't Drink and Drive.'

It is natural that at the end of a long year, people want to enjoy themselves with work colleagues, enjoy a meal and have a few drinks.

But the conse-

quences of driving afterwards could be serious. Drinking impairs people's ability to drive.

No one wants to cause an accident or be stopped by the police and tested with a breathalyser.

One instance of drink-driving could lead to injury, or a lengthy ban, with which could have knock-on consequences at work.

The best thing is to make proper preparations in the days leading up to your party.

Perhaps you should book a taxi to take you home.

Alternatively, if a number of people live in the same area or town, reserving a mini-bus is a great idea - spreading the cost.

Nowadays, people tend to be more aware of their responsibilities when they go out in the evening.

The Christmas party season is one of the most frenetic times for taxi firms, so make sure you call them well in advance, and confirm the booking a day or two in advance.





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## Emily wins a young entrepreneur award



ABOVE: Emily Webb with John Oliver (far left) education business adviser with Careers Wales and young entrepreneurs Nathan Dicks of Revise Learning (second right) and George Ikamba of Mr G's Soul Kitchen (far right).

BUSINESS owner Emily Webb was recently handed the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award at this year's South Wales Business Awards, held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

The 23-year-old managing director of Oarsome Potential Ltd waded away with one of the

top awards from the event, organised by Welsley Skene of Cowbridge-based WS Marketing.

Sponsored by Careers Wales, the Young Entrepreneur Award was presented to Emily for the design and development of her award-winning product called the Oarsome Potential Grip. The multi-use ergonomic handgrips were originally designed for use by profession-

al and amateur rowers on rowing oars and are now adapted for use on indoor rowing machines, helping to reduce pain and calluses forming on the hands of gym users.

The antibacterial grips also help relieve pain in the hands, arms and shoulders of long and short term crutch users and are supplied to a high profile military charity.

## Sea Scouts 'on parade' to collect awards from Mayor



ON October 2, Beavers, Cubs and one Scout received their Chief Scout bronze, silver and gold awards respectively, from the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor at their headquarters in Ilminster Street, Barry.

The photos show James Harris receiving his Chief Scout gold award from the Mayor and Cubs with their leaders accompanied by the Mayor and Lady Mayors.



## LDP: 'PLEDGE EXPOSED'

**I**N The GEM on April 26, Phillip Irwin reported that in a shock move one week before the May elections, the Labour Party in the Vale pledged to scrap the LDP and start all over again.

The Labour group leader, Neil Moore, was quoted as saying: "A Labour-run Vale Council will go back to the drawing board and begin the process again."

However, Alun Cairns MP has now exposed the fact that Labour had no such intention.

All the Vale coalition has done is to merely revise, not scrap the LDP plan,

and Labour councillor Lis Burnet's subsequent feeble attempt to cover up the fact that they had misled the electorate just does not wash.

You would think that a councillor with

so many cabinet posts would know exactly what the Vale Labour Party meant when they published their election promise to scrap the LDP.

Gordon Wilkie, (Conservative voter).

## Wenvoe Trials

Keen cross-country riders are open to juniors and adults, with looking forward to an exciting jumps from 1ft 8" to 3ft 6" average. The open class, to finish the day, has big prize money and this time is open to all age groups. Contact 07798903781.

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The result was calculated from the Customer Satisfaction returns of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland - every single customer of every member company for the whole year, with the award being presented by snooker legend Steve Davis at Network VEKA's AGM in Cheshire.

Six-times World Champion Steve, who is also the Brand Ambassador for Network VEKA, told the MPN team: "All Network VEKA members maintain incredibly high standards, so you really are competing against the best of the best. Congratulations."

MPN's Paul Webster collected the trophy and said of the win: "Our reputation is very important to us and we are extremely committed to customer service. It's great to be recognised for all our hard work."

Steve Davis presents the trophy to Paul & Melanie Webster and Paul & Hannah Glastonbury.



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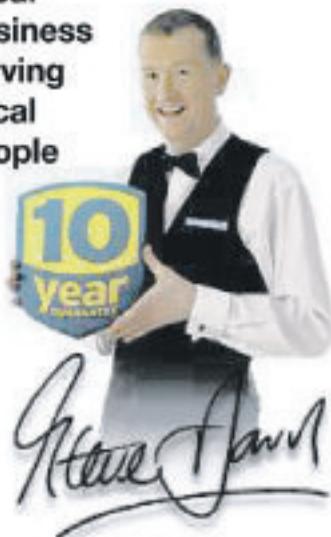
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# Llantwit Major RFC under-14s turn on the style with a fine victory

IT was a day for running rugby as Llantwit under-14s took to the field against the might of Dinas Powys.

Llantwit started strong and Taylor Addison went over in the right-hand corner.

Charlie Cook then went over in the right-hand corner and Matthew Cottingham broke the Dinas defence and powered over for a score under the posts. Converting his own try, Llantwit had a comfortable lead.

Cook once again crossed the line but the

home pack crashed over in the far left corner.

One final burst from the Llantwit pack saw Watkins break the line and power over for a score under the posts. Alex Parry stepped up and slotted through the kick to close out the half, 29-5.

Tom Slimmins put his name on the score-sheet and slotted home the conversion and, with the game clearly won, the Llantwit coaches shouted for the forwards to use the remaining game time to polish up on their rucking and mauling skills.

Evan Holloway and Matthew Cottingham notched for Llantwit but Dinas were not ready to lie down yet, and plenty of guts and determination from the kick-off eventually resulted in a well-worked try with a conversion to follow to make the final score 46-12.

Team: Iwan Williams, Edward Thomas, Patrick O'carroll, Luc Morgan, Ethan Forrest, Alex Parry, Charlie Cook, Dafydd Watkins, Tom Slimmins, Cai Jones, Scott Bunting, Evan Holloway (C), Taylor Addison, Matthew Cottingham, Ben Simpson, Ryan Allinson and Scott Ankin.

AH

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## Cowbridge rugby youngsters enjoy some mixed fortunes

COWBRIDGE, although unable to produce a performance to match that of the previous week, pushed a strong Rhiwbina side all the way before losing by three tries to two.

The visitors opened the scoring after five minutes with the ball travelling through four players' hands before their centre scored a try under the posts, which was converted.

Cowbridge hit back immediately with clever passing between Rhys Beynon and Séan Davies which allowed the latter to score in the corner, the difficult conversion was unsuccessful.

The Rhiwbina pack began to dominate at this stage and despite brave tackling by Owain Jenkins, Tomos Evans-Williams and Charlie Martin they were unable to prevent the Cardiff side from scoring a second converted try.

Just before half-time, Cowbridge centre Dan Bunney scored a fine individual try to leave the score at 14 points to 10 to Rhiwbina.

At the start of the second half second rows Otto Guwy, who was outstanding throughout, and James Waters began to win good lineout ball for

Cowbridge, and with outside half Cai Evans pinning Rhiwbina back in their own half with good tactical kicking, it seemed that a third try was inevitable.

A good run by prop Ben Terry took the ball to within five metres of the line but Rhiwbina somehow managed to clear their ball into touch. Unfortunately, it was the visitors who scored the decisive and winning try with a just a few minutes remaining to win by 19 points to 10.

Prominent in the Cowbridge pack were Duncan Ace, Josh Evans and Tom Edwards whilst the pick of the backs were Osian John, Joe Nott and Sam Palmer.

**COWBRIDGE 52 v KENFIG HILL 0**  
**COWBRIDGE** won their first game of the season with an eight-try demolition of Kenfig Hill.

The home side dominated the game from start to finish, with tries from Sam John and Cai Evans (two apiece) and Rhys Beynon, Sam Palmer and Charlie Pegrum also on the score sheet.

Outstanding up front were Will Couzins and Otto Guwy, while Joe Nott and Dedi Bennett shone in the backs.

ML

## The Barrivale Club looks to increase its membership

THE Barrivale Club is looking to increase its membership so it may continue to provide elderly and disabled people with a social evening to attend.

The club was formed in March 1994 when eight friends decided to form a group for elderly and disabled people to socialise. Led by Mrs Pat Warmsley, they all donated just £5 each to start up.

Our first meeting was held at Highlight Park Nursery where membership drew very quickly. Following a rent increase, they moved to Rondell House, where

they again thrived. Membership reached a staggering 98 members in a short space of time.

Holidays were able to be arranged, and carers could attend. Health and safety courses were therefore undertaken.

Every year we entered the Barry Carnival with help from Mr Don Warmsley, its organiser, who eventually married Pat.

In later years we re-located to Gwenog Court, but unfortunately in recent years our numbers have fallen as our oldest members have passed on and others have been unable to attend due to ill health.

New members are warmly welcomed and our meetings are held every Thursday from 6.30pm-9pm.

Membership is £2 and we hold a donated raffle and lottery draw. Entertainment is provided by local artists and transport can be arranged by minibus from any area in Barry for a small charge.

If you are interested, contact Mrs Edna Haslam (a founder member) on 01446 400209.

Peter Walker  
Treasurer



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# Dr Who exhibit is a joy for adults and children alike!

by GARETH JAMIESON

FOR those Dr Who fans who are still reaching for the tissues, having said a sad farewell to the Ponds, and know that they won't get another Timelord fix until the Christmas special, there is a way to fill the hole in your lives.

Recently opened in Cardiff Bay is the *Dr Who Experience*, a godsend for fans of the television institution that hits its 50th anniversary next year, and being the noble sort, I offered to go and check it out.

Walking into the newly constructed building, you are greeted by wall collages of some of the Doctor's greatest foes, from Davros himself to the slightly less menacing, but no less villainous Adipose, with a replica of the Doctor's car, Bessie, taking pride of place in the waiting area.

Once there, you are shepherded into an adventure which sees you help the Doctor as



*The exhibit gives you the chance to come face to face with the Daleks (above, left) and also see the Doctor's famous TARDIS (right) up close.*



comes up against his most deadly adversaries in a thrilling interactive journey. Using special effects, 3D and specially-shot footage of Matt Smith as the Doctor, it will thrill adults and children alike.

With the chance to walk through sets that look like they've come straight from the screen, to the opportunity for the younger visitors to actually pilot the TARDIS, the interactive element is wonderfully done and it's more than easy to get caught up in it thinking

that you're actually involved in an episode of the series!

Once you've had the chance to take a breather from your adventure, you are greeted by two levels of everything Doctor Who. From costumes of the first 10 Doctors, to replicas of the TARDIS and their

control centres, the first level fulfils the criteria to satisfy even the most hardened Whovian!

When you reach the second level, you come face to face with villains from every era of the Doctors adventures – you can see the evolution of the Daleks and the Cybermen, meet the

likes of the Abzorbaloff, the Sontarans and the Judoon – and see costumes belonging to some of the characters the Doctor has met on his journeys, such as Rose Tyler, Amy Pond, Captain Jack Harkness and (my personal favourite) Kylie Minogue's Astrid.

The whole experience

takes you around 90

minutes and is so jam-packed with trivia and behind-the-scenes information that you won't feel shortchanged in the slightest.

It doesn't come cheap

(a family ticket for two adults and two children comes in at £38), but in comparison to other entertainment, offers incredible value for money, while the onsite gift shop offers plenty for everyone.

For those with even a passing interest in *Doctor Who*, the Experience is a must-visit and well worth your time and money; just be warned – there are no sofas for you to hide behind!

## An insight into the world of Queen Victoria

### DINAS POWYS WI NEWS

DIANA HODGSON opened the October meeting and welcomed speaker, Mr Philip Bowen, on a return visit to talk about Osborne House.

Osborne House was the chosen home of Queen Victoria. She and Prince Albert married in 1840 and the house was purchased in 1845.

It was completely demolished and rebuilt, paid for by Prince Albert, in a very ornate Italianate way.

The house was a "place of one's own". Prince Albert and their nine children spent Christmas and birthdays there.

Queen Victoria was very much in charge, laying down strict rules for the running of the house; including times of meals.

She insisted that servants should not be seen when she was walking around the grounds and gardens, which had been designed by Prince Albert – and supervised by him with the use of semaphore signals from an upstairs vantage point!

There was a private beach and a private

bathing hut, which was lowered into the water when the Queen wished to swim.

At her funeral, London was adorned with purple and white decorations.

In 1954, the house was opened to the public and is now controlled by English Heritage.

We hope to walk in Bute Park on October 25 to view the autumn colours.

Lynda Wallis, one of our members had used her bursary to learn about Churchill and Blenheim at Denman College.

She told members that she had thoroughly enjoyed her three days there, and encouraged other members to attend a course there.

Ann Fowler organised a get-together to start rehearsals for our Christmas entertainment.

The competition for a Victorian object was won by Gillian Hopkins, and the raffle by Miriam Evans.

Our next meeting is on November 6, when we will be told about 'Weird Wills.' We meet in the Lee Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

TRINNIE is a beautiful three-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier, desperate for a new home, Dogs Trust Bridgend reports.

On the same day that she came to the rehoming centre she gave birth to a litter of three puppies. Trinnie was very stressed as she adjusted to life as a new mum in new surroundings.

On top of this, Trinnie has also lost a leg due to a road accident earlier this year.

Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre manager said:

"Trinnie has been through so much in her young life but despite all of her trials, she has such a wonderful nature.

"She loves a good fuss, enjoys playing with her toys and chews, and is a very friendly, affectionate girl.

"She has been a super mum and her puppies have happily all been rehomed.

"We would love nothing more than for her to find her new family, too, and she loves children – a true 'nanny' dog!" To

register as a member.

Kevin logged on to the site and went through the process of registration. This requires your name, address and email address, after which you choose a user-name and your (secure) password.

I am sure it still happens, but times have changed. Now, with the online auction you can make a mistake from the comfort of your armchair.

There is presently much interest in eBay and Kevin S was invited to reprise his introduction of its benefits, how it all works and how to make best use of it.

During a quick re-run of his previous talk, he reviewed its launch in 1997 and how it has grown.

It now allows you to offer goods to a 100 million people worldwide and to inspect what they offer for you to buy.

It is not necessary to become a member to browse and to bid on items.

You can spend as much time as you like to work it all out. Once you decide that you want to be a bit more involved, you can

indicate the maximum you are prepared to pay. If your bid is highest you will win, but your bid will be reduced to one increment above the value of the next highest bid.

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## SPOOKY TALES: A phantom wagon and a 'corpse candle'

THE unique village of Merthyr Mawr lies 2½ miles southwest of Bridgend – it is an intriguing beauty spot with pasture lands on the lower valley of the River Ogmore.

With its traditional thatched cottages overlooking the village green, it gives a dreamy example of an idyllic settlement, itching to remind us of its ancient past.

On the outskirts of Merthyr Mawr is the iconic Grade Two-listed New Bridge, a single-tracked humped overpass made of dressed stone with four arches and parapets.

It replaced a wooden deck on stone piers prior to the early 19th Century structure.

A plaque is set in the wall bearing the inscription: "This bridge was built at the expense of Right Honourable Sir John Nicholl under the inspection of William County Surveyor by Morgan Thomas of Laleston 1827."

Sir John Nicholl had obtained the Merthyr Mawr Estate in 1804, building himself a large house, new road into the village and a bridge to carry stagecoaches across the water, replacing the old ford.

Also known as the 'Dipping Bridge' it was used by local farmers to push reluctant sheep into the water for their annual dip.

The legendary New Inn relates to Cap Coch, an evil man who wore a red cap as a tribute to the French freedom fighters. He enticed weary travellers to his inn, which stood in a hollow on the track road from Bridgend beside

the River Ogmore.

Most ill-fated travellers were known as packmen, often on horseback or in horse-drawn carriages, and would carry valuable products such as wool, skins, stockings and flannel.

They were often single tradesmen in need of refreshment from the inn. Together with outlaws and smugglers, Cap Coch would murder his rich victims in order to steal their wares and take them to market to sell.

The truth of these deeds came to light with the discovery of countless bodies buried around the area of the ruined, and later demolished, inn.

The eye-catching Church of St Teilo is at the heart of the village and became Grade Two listed in 1963. This Gothic-style building was constructed during 19th Century on the site of a 14th Century Church.

St Teilo was the grandson of King Ceredig of Ceredigion and was born around 500 AD. He was considered to be the most holy man in Wales, as he worked and travelled with St David, the patron Saint of Wales.

Stones of interest relating to the era of Paulinus, include the wheel-cross and large sandstone slab with the inscription "Here lies Baudeuin and his wife Lycia. God rest their souls in peace. Amen" – which is a significant reminder of the people who dwelt here in the past.

A 16th Century map refers to Baudeuin's House which was positioned southwest of Merthyr Mawr. The sand dunes (also

known as Merthyr Mawr Warren) span a large area and consist of blown sand. Once thought to be the largest sand dune complex in Europe, they stretch along the coastline to Mumbles.

Because of its golden sands extending over a vast section of the shoreline, parts of the film *Lawrence of Arabia* were filmed in the area.

One particular dune is named 'The Big Dipper,' and is thought to be the highest in Europe.

Although a daunting challenge on such a lengthy stretch of sand, archaeologists found items from our prehistoric past, as well as the Neolithic Age, with findings such as flint tools, arrowheads, knives, scrapers and stone workings.

Bronze Age items dating from 400-300 BC were also unearthed. Early Iron Age objects were uncovered, too, including bronze crucibles, brooches and pins.

Other interesting finds from all walks of life include a sand mound amid covered stones with six burial plots, two of which were in cists.

The skeletons of two men buried in vessels were also found.

A mysterious building also stood in a ruined state on the sandhills. It was thought to be the remains of a Celtic windmill. These Celtic-speaking people are thought to have travelled from Somerset.

The phantom image of a wagon pulled by three horses has been seen on a number of occasions tearing through the village at pace. Local people claim that seeing this apparition is considered to be bad luck as the 'special taper' (corpse candle) eerily guides the eye towards this deadly apparition.

But could this ghostly parade be from an era when a freak thunder-storm struck and the horse, driver and coach were swept into the swollen river, never to be seen again?

The frightful feeling of being watched by unseen eyes around the entrance to the sandhills often overcomes people's emotions, only for them to discover that no physical being is actually there!

Could the ghosts of the past be keeping a watchful eye over their patch from an era beyond our grasp?

**Fact or fiction?** Only you can decide...

**HAYLEY WILLIAMS**  
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

There is a Spooky Hallown Ghost Talk and Walk on October 28 at 6pm from the Swan Inn, Nottage, Porthcawl; £2.50 on entry, followed by Karen's Quiz.

## NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB Researching the world of eBay

AUCTIONS are a source of much amusement in films when something goes wrong and an item is bought (or sold) accidentally.

I am sure it still happens, but times have changed. Now, with the online auction you can make a mistake from the comfort of your armchair.

There is presently much interest in eBay and Kevin S was invited to reprise his introduction of its benefits, how it all works and how to make best use of it.

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indicate the maximum you are prepared to pay. If your bid is highest you will win, but your bid will be reduced to one increment above the value of the next highest bid.

It is possible to place a bid indicating the maximum you are prepared to pay. If your bid is highest you will win, but your bid will be reduced to one increment above the value of the next highest bid.

The increment is proportional to the value of the item and ensures that no item is grossly overvalued by a single bidder. If the seller says 'buyer collects', be sure the distance is reasonable.

Selling incurs a modest charge, depending on the values involved and how much information is included, such as additional photographs.

Accurate descriptions are important and worth the care taken. You will know the cost before you commit to the auction.

Tips were given on how to use the site to your best advantage. They included how to make informative descriptions of what is being sold and finding the correct postage costs.

You are expected to sign up for Paypal in due course to ensure the money changes hands securely.

Feedback from users is used to identify the most reliable people.

For more information about club activities, visit: penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

**HOWARD DESMOND** (chairman)

# PETERSTON PRIMARY CHILDREN CELEBRATE HARVEST FESTIVAL

PUPILS at Peterston-super-Ely Church in Wales Primary School held two harvest celebrations last week.

The first was in the school hall for nursery and reception and the second for the older pupils at the church and community hall.

Both festivals were fully supported by parents and friends, indeed, it was standing room only in the church hall. The pupils entertained the audiences with songs and readings, plus a talk from the Vale of Glamorgan Food Bank chairman. Among the harvest goods were bread and the traditional sheaf loaf, all made by pupils.

PHOTOS  
by IAN  
DIXON



# Pupils help make charity's 'bake-off' a great success



ABOVE: Pupils from Ogmore Vale Primary School with some of the cakes they baked for the event. Photograph by Peter Morgan (www.petermorganphoto.co.uk)

THE Porthcawl-based charity, Sustainable Wales, is "delighted" with the success of its 'Great Fairtrade Bake-Off' competition last Saturday (October 6), and has thanked two local schools for their help.

Pupils from Cornelly and Ogmore Vale primary schools, and a number of local people, competed to make the 'best' cake using Fairtrade ingredients.

The cakes were 'marked' by people who attended the special 'Fairtrade Café' opened for the day at SUSED in Porthcawl.

Director, Margaret Minnink said of the bake-off: "Congratulations to all the contestants, especially several who had never baked before."

"As a former home economics teacher, I know the importance of cooking and of using local foods."

"It was fantastic fun, but the event served an important purpose. All cooks used fairly-traded ingredients, and now the children want to know why all ingredients aren't Fairtrade!"

Jane Mallinson from Ogmore Vale Primary School said: "The pupils decided they wanted to create the Fairtrade logo with their cakes."

"We had a meeting and decided to make mini chocolate cup cakes, mini Fairtrade cheesecakes and a Fairtrade chocolate crispy cake."

"The children created their delicious Fairtrade goodies, with help from Mrs Sutcliffe and myself on the Friday before the

event, with everyone playing a part in making the cakes so delicious!"

"Butter icing in the Fairtrade logo colours of blue and green helped make our cake display resemble the Fairtrade logo, and tasted delicious too!"

Of the schools that took part, Cornelly scored 32 points, and Ogmore Vale 25.

"Grown-ups" who scored well included: Saulat Abbasi (first place), and Marie Cronje (second place).

Margaret Minnink added: "Watch out for further fair trade-themed events organised by Sustainable Wales, including the 'Wine and Cheese' event with contributions from the charity, 'Valley & Vale', on Friday, October 19, at the Café, Co-op store, Pyle, 7.30pm."

"Tickets are available from SUSED, 4, James Street, Porthcawl, on 01656 783962."

## Exciting new year for young farmers

IT has been the start of an exciting new year at Maendy Young Farmers.

On September 11, we held a successful new members evening at Cowbridge RFC, in which fun games and activities were enjoyed.

On September 18, we made a trip to Hollywood Bowl in Cardiff Bay and enjoyed bowling and arcade games.

On September 21, many members enjoyed a fun filled trip to 'fairground Friday' held in the grounds of Porthcawl's Coney

## MP backing fight against breast cancer

**BRIDGEND MP**  
Madeleine Moon is backing the fight against breast cancer by supporting Breast Cancer Campaign's award-winning fundraiser 'Wear it Pink' day, and is encouraging constituents to take part.

Now in its 10th year, 'Wear it Pink', on Friday, October 26, will see supporters from all over the country in schools, colleges and businesses embracing the event's new theme, which is 'superheroes'.

The theme stems from the charity's belief that everybody who joins the



Mrs Moon goes pink, fight – from people affected by breast cancer, to Breast Cancer Campaign scientists and 'Wear it Pink' participants – is a superhero.

Miss Moon MP said:

"Every year in the UK,

around 48,000 women

and 340 men are diagnosed with breast cancer.

"This is why we all need to support 'Wear it Pink' day, so that Breast Cancer Campaign can continue to fund research which will one day lead to a cure.

"Breast Cancer

Campaign is asking

everyone to pull on

something pink and

donate £2. Whether it's a superhero cape, pink socks or pink pants you wear over your tights, you can help the charity achieve its target of raising £2 million, so they can continue to fund ground-breaking research."

To take part in the UK's original and best

pink day, visit [wearitpink.co.uk](http://wearitpink.co.uk) and register to receive your free fundraising pack now.

LP

## Local carers are nominated at national award ceremony

TWO carers from Bridgend are up for top awards at the Wales Care Awards – an 'Oscar-style' awards night for the care sector in Wales, run by Care Forum Wales – at Cardiff City Hall on October 26.

Samantha ('Sammy') Broom (23) "offers that extra 'X' factor which makes her stand out", while 42-year-old Tracey Morgan is up for The Peter Clarke Award for Promoting Excellence in Services for Children and Young People.

As a result of her clients' glowing testimonials, Sammy, from Bridgend, has been shortlisted in the 'outstanding newcomer' category, for one of the care sector's most prestigious awards.

Sammy attended Cardiff Metropolitan University, where she took a degree in sports coaching, but even at university Sammy helped people, taking a friend's grandmother shopping or dropping deliveries off to an elderly neighbour.

She said: "I enjoyed visiting people and knowing I was helping them, so I thought I would look at the care sector."

She joined Home Instead Senior Care in



Samantha Broom (above) and Tracey Morgan (left) are both nominated for top awards at the Wales Care Awards at Cardiff City Hall on October 26.

Cardiff, who specialise in providing quality care to older people in their own homes.

"I have just been promoted to care co-ordinator, so my role is to ensure clients are happy with their care, but I also continue to provide care for four clients," she added.

Sammy is now on her NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social care, while doing courses on dementia and sensory impairment.

In commanding Sammy, her client's daughter said: "Without prompting, Sammy compiled a list of places for dad to visit and factored in costs such as picnics, snack lunches, car park charges, mileage – so that my sister and I are able to keep a handle on expenses, while making sure dad has an interesting day out once or twice a week."

Tracey Morgan's

childhood dream was to spend her life caring for others, and from the age of 10 she volunteered to help out at her local elderly persons home.

Tracey, who lives in Brynna, Pontyclun, is a health care support worker in the Vale, Bridgend and west Wales, supporting clients – mainly children and young adults – with varying disabilities and needs.

After leaving school at the age of 16, Tracey had a number of factory jobs before landing the role she really wanted, as a care assistant at a nursing home in Porthcawl.

In 2006, she joined April Complete Care Solutions, based in Bridgend, as a support worker covering an enormous patch that often sees her driving 400 miles a week, supplying her own fuel to travel to clients.

Tracey said: "My

friend and I used to volunteer to work at the local old people's home and we also ran errands for elderly people in the village.

"After my husband David and my family, my job is the most important thing in my life. I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Nominating Tracey for the awards, her manager Wendy Duckworth said: "We have received an overwhelming amount of support when mentioning this nomination to her clients and co-workers.

"They all agree that Tracey is deserving of such recognition for the tremendous job that she does."

**Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ**  
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012 Email: [bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk](mailto:bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk)



My name is Mae. I am very affectionate and loving with the most gorgeous purr.

I was given a home by a lovely lady after finding myself homeless. She already had other cats and I didn't settle in very well with them, so she decided it would be better for me to find a new home without them.

I will make a great companion or family pet. I am a relaxed cat once I settle in to a new environment and love having a lap to settle on.

I have been in the centre for almost eight months now and am really hoping that someone will give me my happy ever after home soon.

To give Mae a home, or to see the other cats currently residing, visit Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ, or: <http://bridgend.cats.org.uk>, call: 01656 726621, or email: [bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk](mailto:bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk).

## Local lecturers show how to use Facebook to create learning communities

TWO Bridgend College lecturers, Adam Richards and Deri Roberts, have been praised for their informative and thought-provoking presentation at ALT-C 2012, an annual conference for learning technologists held at the University of Manchester.

Based on a paper titled 'Facing reality in a Further Education context – Using Facebook to create learning communities without the cost of a hosted solution', Adam and Deri described how Bridgend College uses the social networking site Facebook in safe manner, so that learners and staff can communicate without invading each other's personal space.

The paper was written as a result of a meeting with Haydn Blackey, head of centre for excellence in learning and teaching at the University of Glamorgan, at a higher education training day.

He asked that Adam and Deri submit a paper about their experience and findings. Of 250 applicants, Adam and Deri's paper was only one of two that was accepted with no amendments.

Following the presentation, a Microsoft blogger had this to say:

"Next up was probably my favourite session from Bridgend College."

Their presentation was about using Facebook to create learning communities without the cost of a hosted solution.

The college are using Facebook groups as an alternative to Moodle to communicate with students, and they described many reasons why this works for them.

"They explained that all of their students were Facebook users anyway so they were familiar with the platform and were logged on regularly. Closed Facebook groups were the best way for the college to use social networking.

The advantages included that there was access to the Facebook groups 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it is a free platform. There is great availability from mobiles and devices which means that the groups are really accessible for the students.

Bridgend college create the groups in a way that there is no friending needed between students and teachers (a concern for many), and the groups are managed by tutors to make sure they are being used in the correct way.

"The college said that in some ways using Facebook was better than face to face, as it meant continuous learning, and less vocal students in class could express their opinions more comfortably within the online groups.

"They also showed a nice video of a student saying how the Facebook groups had worked for him.

"There were some passionate discussions following questions from the audience, but in general I think everyone agreed the college showed that social networking works really well in education."

Adam Richards, music technology lecturer said: "The experience of producing and presenting the paper was amazing and eye opening and it was great to have the opportunity to work closely with Haydn Blackey."

Adam and Deri have since been asked to present at JISC Digital Media webinar, and again at next year's ALT-C 2013.

# Pencoed rely on young talent for comfortable win



ABOVE: Nick Hawkins tackles a Resolven player.

RIGHT: Glen Hiscocks looks for the try line

PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK

The sunny day, with good underfoot conditions, suited the home side against a Resolven team fielding a big physical pack.

The Pencoed starting line up included four of last season's youth side.

Early on, Pencoed outside half Marc Davies and left wing Lewys Jenkins did well to combine deep in their own 22 to clear a dangerous visitors attack.

Pencoed then got the try of the match, Davies on his 22 triggering off his backs with a long pass, and several players handled before right wing Glen Hiscocks was put in possession on the visitors 22. He left his marker for dead with an outside swerve, before doing exceptionally well to cross in the corner for the bonus point try, despite the attention of a desperate Resolven defence.

Marc Davies converted to set the seal on a fine man of the match performance, showing good control at the



throughout, allied to a strong defensive display.

**Final score 31-13.**

On Saturday, Pencoed travel to second in the league Mumbles.

**PENCOED YOUTH 26 ABERDARE YOUTH 19**

This was a somewhat disjointed performance from the home side, perhaps understandable with Pencoed taking the opportunity to use their squad in this friendly match at the

**'Cabbage Patch'.**

This was described as a gutsy win by coach Dorian Russell with the home side scoring four tries through James Tredray, skipper Jordan Hawkins, Rhys Bargery, and Jack Griffiths. Rhys Vowles (two) and Ryan Russell added conversions. Russell, Hawkins, and Connor Jones were the stand out performers in the home ranks.

On Saturday, the squad return to Ospreys League action at Nantyffyllon.

TR

## Mules second team is edged out by Bargoed

**BOTH** teams deserve praise for putting on a highly enjoyable and competitive match at the home of the Mules.

Bargoed proved stiff opposition coming into the game with a big pack of forwards and some elusive running backs. The Mules met them head on but there were too many niggles from both sides in the first half which detracted from the running rugby that was on offer.

Luckily the referee was able to put a lid on the 'handbags' and the game developed into a good hard fought match.

Neither team was able to dominate but it was poor set piece play from the Mules that probably cost them the game, with the lineout completely misfiring and a lack of concentration

at a couple of important set scrums.

Nevertheless, the Mules can be proud of this performance and will only benefit from playing quality teams like Bargoed, and the other teams that make up the National second team league.

Try scorers for the Mules were wings Craig Knight and Lewis Morgan, plus one from livewire hooker Chris Leyshon. Full back Tom Davies added one conversion.

The coaches decided to award man of the match to youth outside half Lloyd Bradley, who showed a keen eye for the break coupled with excellent distribution skills.

The other stand out performance was from No 8 Matthew Bater who had many barnstorming carries.

This week the seconds are home to Glynneath in a friendly.

## PENCOED RFC UNDER-16s UNVEIL THEIR NEW KIT



PENCOED under-16s travelled to Newbridge Fields recently to take on local opposition Bridgend Sports in their first Ospreys Cup match.

In the first half, the Pencoed boys battled hard, and good hands in the backs got the ball out to Patrick Canham to get the first try of the day. Alex King then kicked a penalty.

Pencoed pushed forward with the ruck, and Morgan Jefferies was able to break through and score a try. This left Pencoed at a great advantage at half-time, the score being 13-0.

In the second half, Pencoed fought hard and were able to keep Bridgend Sports off their try line.

More good passing from the backs enabled Dylan Wyn-Davies to score his first try of the season, converted by Chris Cooper.

The game ended Bridgend Sports 0, Pencoed 20.

**Squad:** James Merchant, Owain Clarke, Cole Lewis, Scott Eving, Josh Maund, Lewis Brennan, Daniel Maiden, Morgan Jefferies, Matthew Ellis, Alex King, Christopher Cooper, Jason Clatworthy, Ellis Griffiths, Patrick Canham, Jordan Fox, Jamie Dyer, Aled Bargery, Liam Bowen, Dylan Wyn-Davies and Jonathan Clatworthy.

The photo (above) shows the squad wearing their new kit.

JM

## Drudds suffer friendly defeat

**LLANTWIT MAJOR** Drudds welcomed Heol-y-Cyw to the Rec for a friendly fixture.

This was always going to be a very physical encounter, despite Heol-y-Cyw fielding only 13 players at the beginning of the first half. With a couple of Heol-y-Cyw players lost en route, the Drudds sportingly agreed to uncontested scrums until the 'lost boys' appeared.

This clearly disrupted the home side's focus at the beginning.

The Drudds opened their account first through a penalty from outside half David Spargo but the side didn't seem to have the cutting edge displayed so far this season with a number of regulars miss-

ing for various reasons.

The eventual arrival of the lost boys strengthened Heol-y-Cyw's forwards and the visitors crossed the line eventually, finishing 8-5 up at the end of the first half.

The Drudds hoped to take control at the beginning of the second half but a quiet 10 minutes gave the initiative to the visitors who continued to keep the scoreboard ticking over in their favour.

Midway through the second half, the Drudds showed some of the style and confidence that's been a trademark since the start of the season, with Andy McNicol scoring a lovely try under the posts having hit the attacking line at a great angle from 45 metres out. The try was converted by David

wingers Rhys David and Rhys Ellis, whose counter attacking runs kept the Drudds in the game.

The wealth of experience provided by former first team regulars like Barry Griffiths, Wes Lismore and Paul Gore is making the Drudds a formidable force.

It's a trip to Bryn this week in the Mid-Glamorgan League, with the Drudds aiming to maintain their table toping unbeaten record.

**Drudds:** Andy McNicol, Rhys David, Wes Lismore, Jack Austin, Rhys Ellis, David Spargo, Barry Griffiths, Paul Gore, Stephen Howells (captain), Vuli, Nathan Howells, Ieuan Rees, Gareth Watts, Ash Williams, Dan Thomas. **Subs:** Mark Kensiit, Rohan Byfield.

BG

## Bridgend hockey round-up

**Bridgend Ladies 1st XI v Whitchurch Saints 3rds**

**- Draw 2:2**

First points on the board for Bridgend! Whitchurch were first to get onto the score board, but Bridgend reacted quickly with a shot from Laura Rees, deflected into goal by the Whitchurch keeper.

The second half started with Bridgend 2-1 down. However, a strong and more focused side in the second half saw Bridgend level the field with a goal from Louise Jones. Bridgend fought hard until the final whistle but finished with 2-2 draw.

**Bridgend Ladies 2nd XI v Cardiff Uni 4ths - 1:4**

Bridgend worked hard against a strong opposition; however Cardiff dominated play in the first half. Bridgend did well to only concede one goal with no goal keeper.

In the second half, the team played as a stronger unit and this pressure resulted in a goal from Hannah Sainsbury. Final score 4-1, but it was a great effort against a more experienced side.

**Bridgend Men's 1st XI v UWE Bristol - 3:1**

Hot on the heels of the great

win last week against much fancied Cleevilians, it was another three points for the Ravens at Pencoed School as they despatched a good UWE Bristol side by 3 goals to 1.

Richard Knight opened the scoring after a counter attack move involving Nick Anthony, before the students equalised.

With honours even at 1-1 at half time, captain Rhidian Cole broke the deadlock in the second half with a well worked short corner routine, before David Knight continued where he left off last week with another goal, taking his tally to four in the last two games.

Next up, is a tough trip to third-placed Lydney, who dropped points on Saturday. Bridgend remain, along with Cardiff & UWE as the only two teams with maximum points in The Cymru and the Marches Division One.

**Cardiff & UWE 2nds v Bridgend men's 2nd XI**

After a disappointing defeat in their league opener last weekend, it was back to winning ways for Bridgend 2nd XI thanks to a good 3-2 win away against Cardiff & UWE. Veterans Andy Schofield and Paul Davies were to thank for giving the Ravens the points, SP

adding to a goal scored by UWIC student Rhodri Owen.

It played two won one, drawn one for Bridgend as they take on Whitchurch at Pencoed School next weekend in their first home league game of the season.

**Bridgend Men 3rd XI v Swansea Uni B - 0:15**

Bridgend 3rd XI fielded its usual team of experience and developing youngsters, but came up against a very youthful and strong Swansea University side, who settled quickly and soon put Bridgend's defence under considerable pressure.

Although conceding seven goals in the first half Cliff Harrison brought off some magnificent saves. Bridgend did not give up, attacks did take pace, particularly when Tom Pearce used his skill and speed to create space down the right flank. Bridgend did play some good hockey at times to give encouragement for league games ahead.

**Bridgend under-13s**

Bridgend under-13s played in a round robin tournament on Sunday in Swansea winning four out of the six games, which was a good effort as this was the first time they have played together.

# Carwyn lands championship at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club

**P&K GOLF CLUB** has a new club champion - his name is Carwyn Hammond and he joined the club 18 months ago from another club in the area.

He is as you would expect having won this title - a formidable player with a handicap of plus two.

For those unfamiliar with golfing parlance, this means that he is two shots better than a scratch golfer. In theory, playing off this handicap makes him the best golfer in the club. Could he back this up (substantiate) in the real world of playing on the course? Well, back it up (substantiate) he did!

Having completed the long, extremely difficult task of beating the very best of the golfing elite to qualify for the final, he faced a formidable opponent on the day.

Ian Booth is an eight-time former club champion who has been a member for longer than most can remember. He knows every blade of grass, every slope on the greens and the effect of the winds probably better than anyone else.

A great match was in prospect and it lived up to its expectations.

Club veterans watching the game were astonished by the length of

both players off the tee. One was heard to remark that there would be space for a supermarket between where they hit the ball and where Carwyn's ball landed on the 16th. It was judged to be 340 yards.

However, you don't win eight club championships if you are easily intimidated and Ian used his considerable experience and detailed local knowledge to maximum effect.

They were all square after nine holes, 18 holes and, indeed, 27 holes. Could Ian surprise his longer-hitting opponent and have his name on the honours board a ninth time?

The answer came on the 14th when Ian missed a putt, and Carwyn went one up. From there he went on to win 2 and 1. A worthy winner and a great new champion.

In the Lipscombe Cup final, Dave Rowe was the man in form with a 6 and 5 victory over Mal Hunt.

The junior club championship was won by last year's winner Tom Furneaux, beating Ben Vance-Daniel 5 and 4. Tom is in great form and has represented the club very well in matches against other clubs. A club vet wondered how much better he would be if he had a haircut.

In the Graham Bowl the standard of golf was



ABOVE: Barrie Edwards with David Rowe, and RIGHT: with Phillip Davies



ABOVE: Barrie Edwards with Phillip Davies

very high and Ross Marks edged it with a 2 and 1 win over Les Crole.

The Rosser Cup is a foursomes competition where the two players on a side share a ball. It is generally accepted as the most testing form of golf.

Philip J Jones and his partner Kieran Reddy played beautiful golf to beat Paul Franklyn and Russ Adams 8 and 6.

The Sker Salver was won by the club vice captain, Darryl James, who was striking the ball like a professional and won 5 and 4 over Scott Griffiths, who despite of the result played extremely well.

The junior matchplay cup was won by Tom Pest who overcame Jake Prosser 3 and 2.

For more information on Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club contact 01656



783093/771613 or email: [secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk); website: [www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk).

JM



Carwyn Hammond.



Darryl James.



Tom Furneaux.



Tom Peet.

## Athletic youth involved in a tough match

**B R I D G E N D** Athletic Youth travelled to Nantymoel for what turned out to be an extremely tough fixture.

Despite being a warm, sunny afternoon the ground underfoot was very wet after prolonged rain during the week.

Nantymoel started the first half very quickly using their backs to good effect and disrupting the Athletic's meagre possession.

This pressure led to the Athletic conceding a kickable penalty after some 10 minutes to make the score 3-0 to the home side.

The Nantymoel forwards continued to harass the Athletic pack around the rucks and mauls with their backs making good runs and kicking well out of defence.

The Athletic backs were determined to surprise Nantymoel and were very unlucky not to score after some 15 minutes when some poor passing on the try line allowed a narrow escape for the home side.

Nantymoel kept up the pressure which eventually led to a well-worked try which went unconverted to make the half time score 8-0 to the home side.

After a stiff talking to by the coaches, together with some changes to

personnel, the Athletic started the second half with much more determination and drive and for 10 minutes pounded the home side, forwards Jake Lewis, Rory Thomas and Ashley Adams being notable.

While Nantymoel defended well, this pressure became too much and after 50 minutes the Athletic's Aaron Moredecai forced his way over for a much-needed try. The conversion went wide, making the score 8-5.

The Athletic now had their tails up and continued to batter the Nantymoel line with strong runs from Josh Seldon and Tom Jenkins, and after a further five minutes, center Chris Price crashed over for the Athletic's second try which was successfully converted this time by Scott Jones to take the score to 12-8.

To their credit Nantymoel kept up their heads and continued to apply pressure until the final minutes but were not able to break down the Athletic defence, the game ending in a hard-fought 12-8 victory to Bridgend Athletic Youth.

With further league matches coming up, there is still plenty to work on for the Athletic coaches who will, I'm sure, begin in the week ahead.

MP

## Porthcawl RFC under-13s face their local rivals

**P O R T H C A W L** under-13s 'squared up' to their local rivals, Kenfig Hill.

As per last season, the Mules were out to capture their most prized scalp and started the game at speed.

With a bigger but not so mobile pack, the Mules attacked the rucks with determination and a certain amount of know how. These mules had obviously spent many an hour on the training field perfecting their technique.

But, true to form, the first score went to the seadiders with a try from Harry Nichols after he stormed up the touch line to touchdown under the posts.

An interception try by Bevan Howells followed minutes later and the green and blacks were up and running.

Kenfig Hill, to their credit, looked a different 'animal' to last season and fought back immediately.

After some sterling work from their pack, they scored a fantastic try for themselves and went off at half-time only 14-5 down.

Unfortunately for Kenfig Hill, the second

half was a different story. Porthcawl scored straight from the kick-off with a try from Harry Evans, which was countered by a try from Kenfig Hill.

The fightback didn't last long as the Seaweeds ran in tries from Jac Flanagan, Louis Protheroe, Harry Evans, Bevan Howells and Tom Davies.

To their credit, the Mules never surrendered and kept playing until the final whistle.

The final score was: Kenfig Hill 10, Porthcawl 52, which slightly flattened the green and blacks, who scored a few late tries that made the scoreline a bit one-sided.

Anthony Burnell grabbed himself a conversion with Bevan Howells kicking the other five.

A big thank you to Kenfig Hill for their hospitality and welcome.

Man of the match was Bevan Howells.

*Rest of the victorious squad: Max Budding, Ben Collins, Kurtis Pridmore, Lloyd Mortimer, Ethan Waters, Ben Roach, Dan Williams, Callum Morgan, Jestyn Raven, Joe Stradling.*

IB

## Phoenix's away day blues

**PHOENIX** travelled to a sunny west Wales only to be disappointed in the result against Whitland.

A bad kick-off gave a scrum on the half-way mark and a number of phrases and Whitland scored a try and converted. And another try and conversion from Whitland set a stunned Phoenix adrift 14-0 but with a good defence.

In the second half, changes from Phoenix to bring a more experienced pack worked as they moved the Whitland pack around and it was a more dominating scrum.

But the pressure from Whitland on Phoenix's line was too much to contain and Whitland stretched their lead.

Rolling subs kept the game flowing and pressure on both sides. Phoenix never gave up on scoring.

With tackles going in everywhere from players like Stephanie Niblett, Alana Shakespeare, Kathryn Criger, Kathryn Stonehouse, Amy Stevens, Molly Humphries, Michele Halse, Hannah Bruskill, Katie Murphy, Beth Davies and captain Marina Newth, it was never to be.



ABOVE: Alana Shakespeare finds herself outnumbered by Whitland.  
PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK



ABOVE: Kathryn Stonehouse and Amy Stevens in action.

## Bridgend Bridge Club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, October 3: first - Laura Woodruff and Mike Close, second - Mary Moore and Di Jones, third - Andrew Scott and Liam Sheridan.

Friday, October 5: first - Ray Smith and Bill Turner, second - John Henson and Terry Dolan, third - Irene Thomas and Irene Wickham.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7pm with Graham Jones.

For fuller details and to register an interest contact John on 01656 880372.

All welcome, to reg-

ister an interest contact

one of Graham Jones

on 01446 775952, Steve

Burgoyne on 01656

661968 or David

Newman on 01656

649138.

Afternoon lessons on

Thursdays at 2pm, also

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with John Evans,

whose lessons are for

beginners and those

who have played some

bridge and would like

to improve their bid-

ding and card play.

For fuller details and

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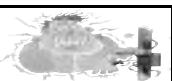
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DN



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## NEW PEUGEOT 208 PROVES IMPRESSIVE FRENCH DRIVE

FOR this week's road test, we visit tranquil and picturesque Brittany to test the all-new Peugeot 208, the replacement to the popular 207.

In a world that is full of bland and characterless hatchbacks, Peugeot has a tough job to make its offering suitably different and, importantly, better than the class-beating Ford Fiesta.

The new 208 is seven centimetres smaller than its predecessor yet there are five centimetres more legroom for rear occupants. The 1.6-litre VTi Allure petrol model tested returns up to a decent 47mpg. This means that it travels 600 miles on its 50-ltr fuel tank.

At first glance, it's a striking model that looks and feels much more fashionable and appealing than its predecessor, demanding lustful glances from other motorists, pedestrians and children alike.

It shares the same wheelbase with the 207 but is over 100kg lighter thanks to a wise choice of materials including aluminium.

Despite Autocar highlighting a poor gearbox, performance and noisy

**Motoring by Tim Saunders**

engine on the 1.2-litre model, the 1.6-litre was a joy to drive through St Malo, Dinan and Dinard, and prior to that it coped with the Brittany Ferries' crossing with ease; its alarm not going off once, unlike the Mercedes next to it.

Yes, the five-speed gearbox is a little chunky but it's certainly decisive. The best part of this vehicle for me are the excellent front bucket seats (you'll see them in the video on [test-drives.biz](http://test-drives.biz)), which prove to be brilliant long-distance companions, ensuring that we arrive at Domain des Ormes, our holiday destination in Dol de Bretagne, very much relaxed.

I find the power steering a little too sensitive and light for my liking, but it has a tight turning circle, experienced when needing to double back at a mini roundabout.

Its dashboard has been thoughtfully designed so that it does not intrude on the front passenger, allowing for plenty of legroom. The powerful radio even picks up BBC Radio 4 in Dinard and French radio on our return home.



*The Peugeot 208 Hatchback 1.6 VTi Allure.*

model, I am impressed with the styling, the chrome around the grille and windows, and its distinctive look, not to mention the high-quality interior. The air conditioning is a welcome feature when it hits 30 degrees Celsius on our final day together.

**New price range:**

£9,995 - £18,495.

**Model tested:** £15,000 approx.

**Peugeot 208 Hatchback 1.6 VTi Allure 5d. Economy: 47 mpg. Power: 120bhp. 0-60mph: 10.9secs. Top speed: 118mph.**

## Council plans to 'inspire a generation'

THE Vale Council has responded to a plea by Coun Claire Curtis, Labour councillor for Dyfan ward, Barry, to ensure that the 'Olympic legacy' is upheld in the borough.

A report by the leisure and tourism team lists programmes run by the council and its partners to achieve the goal of 'inspiring a generation'.

These include: the 5x60 Scheme, the Dragon Sports Scheme and the council's disability sport development officer, funded via Sport Wales.

The report adds that the council's link with Sport Wales is reviewed on an annual basis and is worth approximately £500,000.

It states: "New sports such as handball and water polo have been trialled

in the Vale as part of the 5x60 programme and free swimming programme respectively.

"In addition, both Penarth Leisure Centre and the Colcot Sports Centre have hosted wheelchair rugby events.

"These initiatives often provide the platform to introduce new sports to an area – such as handball, volleyball and basketball – as well as activities children and young people enjoy, such as street dance and dodgeball.

"Future aims include developing more junior opportunities in Olympic sports, such as badminton, table tennis and disability swimming."

A partnership contract with Parkwood Leisure has provided an additional £1,000,000 of capital funding to increase the use of sports facilities.

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10 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 Diesel (130) Exclusive 5-dr in met silver, 15,000 miles. Fantastic value at £9,995	06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style 5-dr in met blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, etc. £4,295
06 CHRYSLER 300 CRD Auto. In silver with grey leather, 54,000 miles, diesel at £8,995	56 DAIHATSU Sirion 1.3 SX 5-dr. In silver, 18,576 miles from new £3,995
59 PEUGEOT Bipper Tepee Outlander 1.4 Diesel Automatic in met blue, only 6,000 miles £8,995	06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5-dr. In silver with climate pack, 65,000 miles £3,995
58 VW Golf 1.9 TDi Match 5-dr in met black, 43,000 mile diesel with multispoke alloys £8,995	54 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel 'S'. In sand metallic, high spec, economical example at £3,995
04 BMW X3 2.5 Sport Auto in met blue with beige leather, 59,000 miles, Panoramic roof, etc. £8,995	04 JAGUAR X-Type 2.1 SE Auto. In light met blue with beige leather trim, 75,000 miles £3,995
59 FIAT 500 1.2 Sport in yellow, 15,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc, 30 road tax, low insurance £7,995	03 HONDA CRV Sport SE. In silver, 90,000 mile 4x4 at £3,995
10 RENAULT Clio 1.2i Music 5-dr (100) in bright met green, 23,000 miles, 1 owner £8,995	58 DAIHATSU Sirion 1.0S+ 5-dr. In silver, low insurance + £30 road tax, with sun roof £3,795
58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTi 3-dr SX. Black, 39,000 miles, £20 road tax + diesel economy £6,995	56 PEUGEOT 107 Urban Lite 3-dr in yellow, 43,000 miles, £30 road tax, low insurance £3,795
58 VW Golf 1.9 TDi Match 5-dr. In silver, 86,121 miles, a/c, alloys etc £6,995	54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi Dynamique Convertible in silver with black leather, fantastic MPG at £3,795
57 SKODA Superb V6 Elegance Auto. In met grey with full leather trim, 16,000 miles from new £6,995	08 CHEVROLET Tacuma CDXi Automatic. In met blue, only 8,000 miles from new £3,695
56 JAGUAR X Type 2 litre diesel SE. In metallic silver with beige leather trim, 73,000 miles with sat nav £6,495	53 AUDI A4 1.9TDI SE (110). In black, 112,000 mile diesel, fantastic mpg £3,695
11 KIA Picanto 1.0 Space 5-dr. In silver, 10,000 miles, low insurance £5,995	55 FORD Focus 1.6L Auto 5-dr. In blue, fantastic value new shape Focus at only £2,995
59 PEUGEOT 207 1.4XE 5-dr in black, 23,000 miles £5,995	53 VW Golf 1.4 Match 5-dr. In met BRG, 63,000 miles, low insurance £3,495
59 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Verve 3-dr. In black, 19,000 miles, 1 owner, great looking car £5,995	06 FIAT Idea 1.4 Automatic. In blue, 19,000 miles £3,295
56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi SRi Coupe. In met grey, 69,000 miles, fsh £5,995	54 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE Auto in black with leather, low mileage stylish coupe at £3,295
55 TOYOTA Corolla CLR 2.0 Diesel 5-dr. In platinum metallic, 62,000 miles £5,995	55 HYUNDAI Accent 1.3 GSi 5-dr. In black, 75,000 miles £2,995
06 VW Golf+ 1.9 TDI SE. In Black, 82,000 miles, economical diesel at £5,695	54 FORD Focus 1.8 Ghia 5-dr. In crystal silver, 58,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, alloys etc. £2,995
60 VW Fox (55) 1.2 3-dr. In silver, 21,000 miles, low insurance £5,495	53 JAGUAR X-Type 2.5 Sport 4WD Auto. In black, 94,000 miles, fantastic value £2,995
09 NISSAN Micra 1.4 Convertible. In silver, 1 local owner, only £5,495	03 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 diesel 3-dr. In yellow, 88,000 miles, fantastic MPG £2,995
58 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. In silver, 26,000 miles, pan roof, fantastic value at £5,495	5 S BMW Z3 1.9 Convertible in silver with black leather, 18 inch alloys, etc. £2,995
58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-dr. In met blue, 42,000 miles, 1 owner £5,495	55 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique. In silver, 49,000 miles, S/R, alloys £2,995
08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.3 CDTi Life 5-dr. In red, 50,000 miles, superb MPG £5,495	55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Oasis 5-dr in black, 62,000 miles with pan-roof, key less go £2,995
58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-dr. In metallic red, 48,000 miles £4,995	55 FORD KA. In red, 36,000 miles, 1 local owner £2,495
57 FORD Focus 1.6 Diesel Style 5-dr. In black, 75,000 miles £4,995	54 CITROEN Berlingo Enterprise 1.9 Diesel Van. In white, 70,000 miles £2,495
04 LANDROVER Freelander 2.0 Diesel 'S' 5-dr. In black, 87,000 mile 4x4 at £4,995	53 PEUGEOT 206 GTi in ice blue met, 70,000 miles with a/c, cruise control, cd £2,495
	03 SKODA Fabia 1.4 Elegance 5-dr. In met blue, FSH, cd etc. £2,495
	04 FIAT Panda 1.1 Active. In Cardiff City blue, low insurance £1,995



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**59 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Verve 3-dr.**  
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# GEM sport

## Athletic grab their first home win of the season

**C A R D I F F**  
Metropolitan University came to Newbridge Fields full of confidence after only succumbing to Championship contenders Bargoed by a single point.

The Athletic won the previous week by a single point at strugglers Pontypool – but were still looking for their first home win of the season.

On the day the Athletic were good value for a 17-10 victory, which could have been even more impressive if a number of penalties had gone the right side of the upright.

The Athletic started brightly and following five minutes of continual pressure were rewarded with a penalty for off-side, which outside half Steve Lewis duly kicked. This brought up his half century of points

for the season.

A scrummaging offence allowed Lewis to repeat the feat. When the students further transgressed for not releasing, Lewis completed his hat-trick of penalties to put the Athletic 9-0 ahead.

Cardiff Metropolitan responded with a penalty from Mark Cooke. They then won a line out five metres from the Athletic line and drove. Athletic lock Sean Williams was sent to the sin bin for coming in from the side to halt the move.

The Met opted for a scrum against the seven-man Athletic pack and were awarded a penalty try for an Athletic infringement. Cooke converted to put the students 10-9 ahead.

Despite being a man down the Athletic forwards took the game to the visitors and after a series of probes at the try line were awarded a five metre scrum. No8 Griff

Davies picked up and the Athletic pack got behind him to eventually force hooker and captain Simon Mustoe over the whitewash to give the Athletic a 14-10 half-time lead.

The second half saw end to end play – but both sides' defences held out to prevent any further tries. The Athletic had four kickable penalties during the half – but Steve Lewis was only able to convert one of them for a match haul of 12 points.

There were a lot of positives for the Athletic coaches to take from this game. The pack were awarded man of the match in bloc for a magnificent display. The front row: Liam Griffin, Mustoe and Rod Apse were excellent in tight and loose. Locks Sean Williams and Jonathon Stoker competed well against taller and heavier opponents.

The back row of Sean Derrick, Griff Davies and replacement Stuart Nation tackled with immense courage to stop the students bringing their free running backs into play.

Centre Michael Hathaway and outside half Steve Lewis were the pick of the backs – but all 17 players on display merited wearing the Athletic jersey.

The students' committed were very magnanimous in declaring the spirit shown by the Athletic team.

The Athletic hope to now build on the momentum of the past two consecutive victories when they entertain



ABOVE: Liam Griffin holds onto the ball.  
BELOW: Lloyd Evans makes a break.  
PHOTOS BY GLENNSPORTS



high flying Newbridge at Newbridge Fields this Saturday.

The last time these teams met at Newbridge Fields was in the Swalec Cup in 2005-2006 when the Athletic from Div 2 West pulled off a giant killing act, winning 35-26.

After the Newbridge game the following Saturday, Glamorgan Wanderers also visit Newbridge Fields.

Coach Stuart Morris is very encouraged that performances are going in the right direction and does not see why the Athletic cannot finish in

the top half of the inaugural Championship table.

The club would like to thank David Bur and the Friends of Bridgend Athletic for sponsoring the game.

AB

## KENFIG HILL FIND THEIR WAY PAST LOUGHER

LOUGHER started the game and showed their intentions, piling into the Mules' forwards with all guns blazing, but the Kenfig Hill pack were more than a match for them and were soon putting them under pressure.

Unfortunately the Mules' outside half Raymond Evans had to leave the field with an ankle injury meaning scrum half Matthew Tossell was switched to the pivot position and he immediately made his presence felt with a well struck penalty.

The Louther outside half Chris Banfield replied with two penalties.

The Mules' defence at this point was supreme with the home side trying their best to increase their lead.

Kenfig Hill's left wing then scored a brilliant individual try from the half-way line, running close to the touchline, evading all efforts to tackle him, Matthew Tossell putting over a difficult conversion from the touchline.

The Mules then started to gain possession and it was the turn of the Louther players to show their defensive skills as the Mules' attack battered them.

The Mules started the second half with a bang when full back Mike Kennedy made a daz-



ABOVE: Jason Davies charges forward.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 29, Louther 16.

This was Matthew Tossell's game as he was selected at scrum half but had to move to the unaccustomed position of outside half just after kick off due to the regular leaving the pitch through injury.

Matthew also took over kicking duties when Kenfig Hill's regular kicker had to withdraw just before the start with a leg injury.

Jason Davies had an outstanding game at openside wing forward with Matthew Legg also playing well.

Miles Kennedy had a stormer of a game at full back and props Matthew Davies and Jamie Uren stood out in the front row battle against some experienced opponents.

We would like to wish Bob Johnson a happy 84th birthday this Friday. Bob is a life member of the club and never misses a home game; he also enjoys the cut and thrust of debate on a Sunday morning with his pre-lunch drink.

GOS



ABOVE: Michael Hathaway looks for a pass.

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